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112, 114 & 116 Lake St.
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75 " Lawrence
100 " Appleton
100 " Indian Head
GRAIN BAGS
50,000 STARK MILL BAGS,
30,000 LEWISTON BAGS,
20,000 OZARK BAGS,
Fifty cents a hundred deducted from the above prices if purchased in quantities of 1,000 and upwards.
PRINTS.
100 Cases Merrimac Prints,
50 " American Print Works
50 " Richmond Works,
50 " Bleached Muslin,
25 " Harrison Cotton Flannels
100 Bales Denims, Stripes and Ticks,
CLOTHS, KERSIMERES
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HOSIERY.
NOTIONS.
SILKS AND SHAWLS.
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OIL CLOTHS.
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Buying my Dress Goods entirely by the
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NOTICE:
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We are constantly getting out large qu
NEW HAMS,
Of choice curing, for FAMILY USE
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Pork, etc., etc.
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LELAND & MIXE
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TO HOTEL KEEPERS,
CHEAP FOR CASH.
SUGAR CURED HAMS
Warranted, for shipment to any part of the
Also, Sugar Cured Shoulders, Breakfast
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Packing Establishment, No. 37 & 39 Kinzie
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CARD—Latest style, Ivory Surface, f
MARRIAGE CARD DEPOS
99 Washington Stree
On sale, also, a superb lot of Ladies' and
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WEDDING INVITATIONS, FINE POCKET
Orders by MAIL or WRITING, and you will be
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$80,000 TO LOA
On first class securities, in sums to suit.
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$2,000 WILL BUY
The stock of Groceries, Crockery, Glass
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Inquire on the premises, No. 1 Randolph
here apply to LOUIS & SMITH, Marshall
Apply immediately as above.
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evening last, a Breastpin, which the
owner for her trouble, and you have
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COKE COMPANY.—The Annual Me
stockholders of the People's Gas Light and
will be held at their office in Chicago,
TUESDAY, January 14th, 1862, at 10 o'clock
election of five Directors, and other bus
said meeting.
E. TUDEMEIR
Secretary.
TAKE NOTICE.—Oscar
Simeon left home, with one of three child
Lage Corner, September 20th, 1860, and told
would be back that night; that he has not
has been unheard from by trade, heavy weight
thickset, aged thirty-six years of age; ha
hair, and of fair complexion; clear de
Dressed hogs
Beeves, Sheep
extreme price,
1000 BBLS. NEW
Refined Sugar
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some of the choicest brands of
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To which we invite your attention.
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I will sell the recipe for Spotting M
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This is the first time this receipt has ever
any other one will this season. One Dollar,
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Address it to me, and receive the recipe
the last year. Address H. S. COUCH, Oak
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Clark street, (up stairs), over the I. S. E
FOR SALE
Humphrey's celeb
Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Hogs. Also
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The Officers of the Irish Brigade
Co's A, F, Land K, 23d Reg. Ills. Vols. Zouaves
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Monday, 6th inst., at Camp Douglas, on or
8th day of December, 1861, at 10 o'clock A. M.
CAPT. M. MILLEN,
CAPT. M. KELLY,
CAPT. D. MAHONEY,
CAPT. DAVIS,
CAPT. DUFFY.
WITH CLEMENS &
TOUR Woodbine and Macdonald Cigarettes
box, 1862, and you will find a better article
can cost the same. Try one or more
can procure them. Sold by all Druggists
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WEEKLY

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The Tribune.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1862.

SHALL WE HAVE A POLICY?

It is an established rule in all judicial tribunals that no litigation can be had and determined by a court or jury until an issue, so called, is fairly made up. There must be not only a complaint or cause of action set forth by the plaintiff on the one side, but the defendant or opposite party must answer it, and in answering meet the very points presented, before a trial can be had. It will not do to dodge or avoid the question, if properly and fairly presented on the other side; but at some period or other, earlier or later in the history of the particular case, the whole controversy between the parties is reduced to a single issue, and then and not before, is the case ready for a hearing on the merits. How is it in the present great contest between the rebels and the Government?

We assert that the issue tendered by the South has not been met. On the part of the rebels, the war is waged in defence of an institution. It is carried on for the purpose of making the institution of slavery dominant in the nation, both as a financial power and a political agency. We know that this is denied by some pro-slavery men among us. But look at the facts. Has the South ever complained of our *form* of government? On the contrary, she has modeled her own rebel government on the same pattern. They have their Presidents and Secretaries, their Senate and House of Representatives, their Governors and State Legislatures, all the same as before the rebellion. In no important particular is there with them any distinction between the new and the old, except in relation to the institution of slavery. The paramount object with them is not, then, to change the government—if it were, they would not fashion another exactly like it—but it is to make the great, controlling, overshadowing interest under the government, the institution of slavery. They say boldly that we shall no longer have a united nation unless slavery is made national. Here at the North we obstinately refuse to meet the question they presented. We raise armies and equip fleets to fight them, but protest all the time that upon the great question of slavery we are ready to accede to all their demands. The Southern man fights for his divine institution. The Northern man fights for a government in which that institution is to be the chief corner stone. The conservatism of the South is effective only in support of slavery. The conservatism of the North seeks to embrace both slavery and the Union. It ignores the experience of the past and the stern reality of the present by those seeking to harmonize most discordant principles. The conservatism of the South has plunged the country into war. That of the North insists upon prolonging the war, to subserve the very interest that brought it upon us. In either section, conservatism is but a synonym for treason. If we prefer slavery to the Union, why expend so much treasure, and sacrifice so much life in fighting the rebels? If we prefer the Union to slavery, why hesitate to sustain the one by crushing the other? In other words, why not meet the issue tendered us by the South? Let us do that or confess judgment. Such litigation as we are carrying on with the South does not pay. It does not pay to expend $500,000,000, and sacrifice scores of thousands of lives, without deciding something.

In this war the advantages of earnestness and candor and bold manly assertion of the principles involved, are all with the South. She has thrown down the gage in behalf of slavery and we have declined to take it up. We are fighting, it is true, *but without a policy*—or rather with different and antagonistic policies according to the peculiar notions of our Generals in command. Is this the part of wisdom and prudence? Why not make war upon that which is making war upon the Union? Why seek in waging war to defend and preserve that which alone has brought the war upon us? We do not claim to be prophets, yet we can see clearly that this war must terminate in the overthrow of the Union or the overthrow of slavery. Conservatism with all its strength cannot save both. It has labored for sixty years to conserve southern rights, as it terms the object of its worship, until it is suddenly confronted with a civil war and a national debt of a thousand millions—and all for slavery. Expensive, luxurious conservatism can we afford it? We believe that the masses of the people are ready for the question. They are ready to fight on the issue tendered by the rebels. But the Government lags and hesitates. The atmosphere of Washington is full of deadly enervating influences. Slavery has so long held undisputed sway there that it is hard to disturb it. With the almighty dollar for its prime minister, it lords it even over the men who compose the present Administration. The patriotic heart of the President cowers before it. The Cabinet is dumb in its presence. But we have faith that a brighter day will come. Right and justice must triumph. The absurdity of our position is every day manifesting itself. We have got to speak out on the question of slavery. The Government at Washington will be forced into a policy. Woe to those who take upon themselves the responsibility if that policy does not accord with the dictates of patriotism and humanity!

OUR GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

Unless the Government has the firmness to expose and punish frauds let the blow fall where it may, it will be entirely proper, and never far more of honest dealing with the people to provide for such expenditures. If at one end of the fiscal year we were tamely to sit down and know that thousands millions have been squandered to line the pockets of knaves of all degrees, it will guard against unpleasant surprises, and cost no more to set aside a liberal fund for the swindlers and thieves. Let us have a General Fraud Account during the annual Treasury estimates, to be settled as by a shrewd guess at how much of the sums disbursed will probably go to make up private fortunes, and then *doubling* the figure, for surely no one would have ventured to guess at the amount we now see sadly and surely know has been stolen. The amount is sufficient to awaken grave alarm. It is just now, or should be, one of the prominent questions of our National finances, whether there is no redress for these gigantic peculations, whether a million or two might be realized by a process of disgorgement enforced upon some of those sharks and leeches who have fattened upon the very extremity of the Government, and availed themselves of a period like the present to steal themselves into affluence. Are none of them to be exposed? Washington would be a good place to begin with, and a tolerable amount of work is cut out at Cairo as already hinted at in our columns, and sustained by what we present elsewhere to-day Or is it possible that the same influences brought to bear to secure fat contracts, constitute a sufficient safeguard for the robbers. What can we argue from the course of the Government in regard to these monstrous frauds that thicken upon us wherever investigation is turned.

Winter is now upon us. It is a season when the thrifty farmer, cut off from field operations, is busy in his tool-house, repairing the implements of his husbandry. It is a work we earnestly commend to this Government. Its tools are certainly in bad order, as well as odor. Now that our armies are in winter quarters, let there be a thorough going over and repair of their implements. Let there be a busy time in the Government tool-house. If we have no settled policy of firmness and severe justice for the rebels, we have at least no public reasons why the great army of scoundrel contractors, and thieves in and out of departmental shoulder-straps, may not be put to the sword.

WHAT THE CYNICS SAY.

Plain men who reason now from what they see, and not from what they are told, begin to believe that as long as any slaveholder in the United States pretends to be loyal to the Government, the war will be conducted with special reference to his case, and in such a way that the title to the last hair on his last nigger's head may not be disturbed! Not accustomed to growling, nor saying ill-natured things, we do not affirm that this will be the case; but we are forced to admit that there is good reason for this notion in which these cynical patriots indulge. If they are correct in their hypothesis, we have yet a long time to wait before the hard and effective blows begin to fall; because there may possibly be full ten thousand slave-holders who are not openly or covertly working to break the Union in twain; and to be condemned to "hope deferred" until they go with the rebels, or come wholly over to the loyal side, will make the heart sick indeed. But there is ground for encouragement after all. When the struggle began, in Mr. Buchanan's day, the slaveholders, whose wishes he felt bound to obey, were nearly 400,000. When Lincoln came in, the greater part of these had taken themselves over to the other camp; but those of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Maryland remained, and to them the Government, in pursuance of the old policy, was of course compelled to defer. It could do no decisive thing against their consent; and so, when Virginia got a good ready, she took herself off, her "loyal slaveholders," to whom so much had been conceded, heartily approving her course; and Tennessee followed her example. This defection reduced the number of "loyal slaveholders," but it did not release the obligations of our rulers to the Slave Power which has dictated the policy of the Government so long, because Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland yet remained. Missouri went into rebellion, and the last was still further shortened; but Kentucky and Maryland are yet the *incubi* which stifle all loyal endeavors. How many "loyal slaveholders" these States have we do not know; but until the last of their nigger runs away beyond reclamation, we have little hope that the war will become as earnest and honest as the people wish it to become. In the meantime, would it not be well to buy out the few darkeys yet left in Kentucky and let the fight go on. A tenth of the money out of which the Government has been "done" by the "patriots" who are fighting in the lobby of the White House and in the ante-room of the War Office would suffice. Who will pass around the hat?

THE VAN WYCK INVESTIGATIONS.

The stolidity of the New York press on the subject of the report of the Investigating Committee on Government contracts, excites general surprise and disgust. The *Herald* simply ridicules the affair because the larceny was not planned on a larger scale. "Hoot awa' men," says old Mr Bennett; where Floyd and Van Buren pocketed their millions, these modern scapegraces have bagged only a few hundred thousands. The sole thing worthy of notice, according to the *Herald*, is the "lugging in of a few respectable names" in connection with the Cataline and Cummings jobs. This refers to Thurlow Weed. The ancient quarrel between Weed and his friends on the one side, and Bennett and his *Herald* on the other, has been made up, and now Secretary Seward and his Albany strategist have no more sturdy champion anywhere than their old time antagonist, James Gordon Bennett.

The *Tribune* stops in its publication of the report just at the place where it begins to pinch a certain person. The New York *Times* is deaf, dumb and blind as to the report, and not through ignorance, for Mr. Raymond himself is at the Capital. The *World* is not the newspaper to censure Mr. Alexander Cummings for reposing such high confidence in Mr. James Humphrey, for purchasing straw hats, linen pantaloons, Scotch ale, London porter, pickled tongues, selected herring and other delicate *entrees* for our volunteers, and for being so backward in filing his accounts in the War Office. And of course Mr. Cummings is not the man to cry out against other people's peccadilloes, with this record standing against himself. For must not call kettle black.

Forney's Philadelphia *Press* has not yet announced that the Committee have made a report. Certainly it has not alluded to any of its revelations. The country at large has learned to look in this paper and the New York *Herald* to find the earliest intimations of the Administration policy, and when it does so it is rarely misled or mistaken. When it is seen that Forney's *Press* is remarking upon the possible contingency that Mason and Slidell may be surrendered, it is to be taken for granted that it will be done; and when it is observed that the same journal is omitting all reference to certain alarming robberies, is not the assumption somewhat just that publicity is not desired in ministerial circles. A distinguished Senator asked the other day whether it was fair to expect that the Government would be more honest than the public press, and whether the people could expect Congress to right these egregious wrongs while the most influential newspapers are either sneering at their efforts, or ignoring them by shameful silence. Has the time arrived when the stealing of a few millions more, or less, from the public treasury is not accounted a crime, to be reprobated and punished? No nation can long survive the loss of public virtue; no nation ought to. These are solemn words, but we appeal to the readers of the TRIBUNE, we appeal to the President of the United States, whose fingers have never been soiled by a dollar that was not honestly earned, whether they are not true.

A NEGRO REGIMENT.

A special dispatch from Cairo in the last issue of the Chicago *Times* contains this bit of intelligence:

> There are six thousand troops, *including the negro regiment*, and fortifications, six miles below New Orleans, and two regiments two miles above

We looked through the editorial columns of the *Times* in vain, to discover an outburst of virtuous indignation against "our Southern brethren" for employing regiments of "niggers to murder loyal soldiers of the Union." We expected to find an appeal to the Government to send a flag of peal to the Government to send a flag of truce to Jeff. Davis, demanding that all negro military organizations be broken up, and all negro companies and regiments be disbanded, under the pains and penalties of stern retaliation by organizing regiments of blacks on our side, to combat those on the rebel side. But we looked the *Times* over in vain. It contained not a word of reproof or censure of its secesh brethren; but on the contrary, devotes its chief editorial to abusing the people of Michigan for forming an organization, the object of which is to induce the Government to strike a blow at the vitals of the rebellion, by emancipating the slaves of the traitors. The Chicago *Times* would be an openmouthed secession sheet it it dared to be. Nothing but fear of suppression of its publication and a residence at the Hotel de Warren, of its editors, keeps it from throwing off the thin disguise and boldly announcing its allegiance to Jeffdom.

"THE PROPERTY OF REBELS" WITH AN EXAMPLE.

The unconditional Union men of the country—those who would preserve the Constitution at all hazards—have from the first urged that all the property of traitors (negroes being chained by them as such) should be confiscated, as the surest and the quickest way to suppress the rebellion. No intelligent man can so stultify his reason as to doubt for a moment that slavery is the cause of the rebellion, that its object is to protect and cherish the "peculiar institution," and to slavery do the traitors look for the means to overthrow the Government. It is plain, therefore, that to confiscate the slaves of the rebels is the most effective means to break down the rebellion and to restore peace and prosperity to the country. The despotic, slaveholding Government of Brazil has set us an example directly in point. The Southern Province of the Empire, Rio Grande do Sul, previous to 1845 revolted, and for ten years the rebels managed to carry on a guerilla war against the Government. We have before us a work on Brazil, the result of two and a half years' residence there by Dr. Kidder of Evanston, previous to 1845, and published in that year. In regard to the conduct of the war, both by the rebels and the Government, we take the following paragraph from page 277:

> One result of this international strife has been the almost entire extinction of slavery within the contested territory. In order to increase their ranks, the revolting party promised liberty and arms to every slave of a legalist who would desert his master. Whereupon, the government promised as much to those slaves who would arm the revolters; and, moreover, by a summary act, deprived all the rebels of the legal right to hold slaves. Thus, between the two parties, those slaves are declared free, although it is possible, that many on both sides will, by some means, be kept in ignorance of their unsought-for privileges.

The passage stating that the Government "by a summary act deprived all the rebels of the legal right to hold slaves," is worthy of the attention of the powers that be at Washington. If they are in real earnest, why do they hesitate to enact a law sanctioned by the usage of all nations and long since justified by the necessities of the case? There are in the rebel States four millions of "persons," to use the language of the Constitution, all of whom would be loyal to the Government if they dared, or it was physically possible for them to be so. The traitors now command their labor and all their energies; while a single day's work by Congress ought to transfer them to the side of the loyal States. There is a mawkish sensibility on this subject which is truly amazing, and it is becoming disgusting to all true patriots. Why not imitate the decisive policy of Brazil and thus end the war in ninety days, for there is not the least danger that the Oligarchs of the South will free the negroes, and they could not engage any considerable number to fight for them if they did. A majority of the slaves comprehend the causes of the war quite as clearly as do their masters. Proclaim liberty to them all in the rebel States—for so few of their masters are loyal that it is scarcely necessary to make any exception there—and they would at once render the armies of the Republic invincible. They would rush to the stars and stripes with the wildest joy, and their traitor masters would be glad to lay down their arms or incontinently flee to some land of despotism, as more congenial to their safety as well as to their tastes. To emancipate the slaves of the rebels every sensible man knows would break the right arm of the rebellion, restore peace to the country and in a very few years again give us a happy, prosperous and powerful Union.

The moral effect of the passage of such a law upon the civilized world would be most salutary and encouraging. While we fight to save slavery we cannot secure, and ought not to expect, the sympathy of Europe. Not a nation there, if we except the rotton old despotisms of Spain and Turkey, will tolerate slavery. The whole system has long since been classed with piracy by the moral sense of mankind, and now that it is in open rebellion against the freest Government on earth, why should not the last vestige of it be swept from the North American continent? It is to be hoped that the privilege of spending the holidays among their constituents will reassure the firmness and the patriotism of our rulers, and when Congress really goes to work in January, that they will at once confiscate the slaves of the rebels; that the grand army of the Union will everywhere strike home for liberty and law; that the rebellion may be crushed out, and that a few short months may see the flag of our country again floating in peace from the Rio Grande to the Potomac.

WINTER AT LAST.

Winter is upon us in all its severity. The protracted and remarkable interim of weather of almost Indian Summer mildness, carried far into December, has passed, and snow and ice have assumed their wonted reign. It is now unlikely that there will be military operations on any extended scale on any part of our lines from Missouri to the Potomac. The last promise of any movement at the latter has disappeared. The troops are making themselves as comfortable as possible in winter bivouacs, and a battle is beyond the remotest of probabilities. So in Kentucky whence, for a week or two past, we have been waiting to hear the clash of arms. The prospect of anything like a general engagement is very slight. There will be scouting operations and picket shooting, but that will be all, for military campaigns cannot be conducted successfully in severe weather like the present.

It will be noted with general disappointment, that the late mild weather which seemed an extension granted for military operations, has passed by unimproved; but it is so, and our army may as well be considered in winter quarters. But in the eight months since the war commenced, how short the list of successes in the field, how scanty the opportunities fairly to test the spirit of our troops. The delusion has been an unfortunate one, which has been expensively maintained, that a battle was always "imminent" here, and "not long to be postponed" there, and that "great events" were "just before us," or only "ten days" off. If the policy of the war was really just the reverse of this, and the intention of the Government to have no battles, the encouragement of expectations to the contrary in the people, and throughout the army have had no good results. For a time it answered well on the Potomac and in other camps, that whole brigades lay all night on their arms, when it was known at headquarters that the order was a hollow pretence. It did no harm to soldiers as a part of military training, but all these separate instances when massed and set down as the result, the sole and only achievement of the first campaign, will prove quite another matter. No one likes to be deceived.

The winter is now upon us; the very period has passed which we awaited with eagerness, and the rebels with corresponding dread. When the campaign re-opens those allies of the Confederates which lurk in their malarias will again be ranked on their side. We shall be told that it is unsafe to push an army Southward in May. Winter will tell severely upon the physical condition of our troops, and spring will find them enfeebled and reduced, to an extent for which no increased discipline can atone. They would have been in better condition for the field six weeks ago than they will be in March. We note these things as incontrovertible facts. We unwillingly relinquish the expectation of a battle, but day by day this has grown steadily less. Are these results all we had reason to expect from the first campaign of the Government to crushoutthe rebellion?

The Fight at Allegheny Summit.

The facts as to the late fight between Gen. Johnson, of the rebels, and Gen. Milroy, the Federal commander, has fallen off largely since the first reports. From being the "most brilliant achievement of the war," it has come to stand beside Belmont, and requires a labored argument to show it was not a defeat.

Gen. Milroy took parts of some four or five regiments—the 3d Virginia, the 9th and 13th Indiana, the 25th and 32d Ohio—marched from Cheat Mountain to the Alleghenies, some thirty miles, and came upon the enemy in ambush, some two thousand strong, with his own men quite exhausted.

Our men discovered at the first fire that a great mistake had been made. They had been led to expect a different meeting. Scouts had reported the enemy only about a thousand strong, and in a place where they could easily be taken. Our men were all eagerness to bag them. They supposed themselves double as strong as the enemy. Instead of that, they were scarcely more than half as many. No wonder, then, that finding their mistake, and coming on a heavy fire, one or two of the regiments flinched badly at first. The 25th Ohio gave way in bad confusion, as we understand it, and four boys of the 2d Virginia winced considerably also, although not seriously. Both regiments, however, came up to the work in a short time, and we have it on good authority that the 2d acquitted themselves with great credit after they had recovered. The expedition was a volunteer one altogether, and companies were made up from the different regiments just as individuals offered.

The Contraband Question.

Prominent members of Congress are considering a question, in order to avoid the expense of supporting crowds of slaves in idleness, and furnish the American mills with cotton. They take the ground that the Indian Territory west of Louisiana and Arkansas was ceded to the United States by treaty, and on certain conditions. Without provocation they have violated the treaties and plevied war" on the United States, thus rendering the treaties null and void. The countries recently overrun by secession troops, on the line of the Red, Arkansas and other rivers, and contains about 20,000,000 of acres of cotton land, of unsurpassed fertility, capable of producing about 15,000,000 of bales of cotton per annum.

It is proposed to apply the principle of Benton's "Florida Armed Occupation Act," and sell all "contrabands" to this Territory and apprentice them to the settlers upon these cotton lands, leaving the question of their final disposition to be settled by Congress at the close of the war. All contrabands, as fast as they come into camp, to be promptly forwarded thither.

The country is approached from St. Louis, through Springfield, a distance of 300 miles The remainder of the railroad from Rolla through Springfield to Fort Smith, can be completed in twelve months. It is said that the plantations of the Choctaws and Chickasaws alone could fully supply the American mills, even the first year of the experiment.

The Situation in Missouri.

The entire Department of Missouri is in excellent order. The military telegraph now by lines carefully guarded and kept open, keeps Gen. Halleck, at headquarters, in constant possession of means of intelligence to and from all quarters, and this advantage, joined to the railroad facilities also kept under strict control, enables him to dictate and avail himself of the most efficient use of troops. The work of breaking up and intimidating the guerilla operations of Price's hordes is being vigorously pushed, and the late brilliant success of Gen. Pope's division at Lamine and Milford, will have a powerful effect in this direction. Gen. Pope is doing excellent work in Northern Missouri. The brigades of Wyman and Sigel are also participating from Rolla in the same work, and the errand of the gallant Jennison on the Western border will not fail of like results. Price will "want 50,000 men" much more than ever before, and Missouri will never supply them.

An Armed Negro.

The following is related of the battle of Drainsville, fought last week and gallantly won:

Colonel Jackson, of the 9th Pennsylvania Regiment, left his *negro servant* in charge of his horse while he advanced toward the enemy. Seeing two rebels who had discharged their muskets approaching him, the boy drew his carbine and threatened to shoot them if they did not surrender at once. Then they did, and marched before him to the camp.

The act of the negro was clearly a violation of the Constitution according to the "conservative" press. What right had that nigger to have a carbine and threaten to shoot white rebels? How dare he take prisoners? We expect to see the "conservative" *Times* and *Journal* demand that this shooting darkey shall be driven from our lines, for infracting the Constitution. Negroes must only be allowed to fight on the side of the rebels and shoot Union soldiers. The country would go to eternal smash if they were employed to shoot rebels. How profound are the mysteries of flunkeyism!

Sickness in a Regiment.

We have made frequent allusions to the alarming extent of sickness in our camps, particularly on the Potomac, where the men have been doomed to a life of idleness, with unsuitable quarters. The 105th Pennsylvania regiment, Col. McKnight, has been more fortunate than many others, and yet its sick list shows the following total: Typhoid fever, 40; catarrh, 109; diarrhœa, 10; measles, 13; pneumonia, 7; rheumatism, 5; bronchitis, 3 dyspepsia, 3; spasms, 2; sprains, 3; dislocation, 1—total, 196.

Mustering in Minors.

The State courts differ widely in their construction of the law relative to the enlistment of minors in the service of the United States. Ohio and some other States hold that minors who have been mustered in, even though they had not the consent of their parents or guardians, must be held. In Wisconsin, however, the contrary decision has just been rendered by a commissioner of the court, in the case of a minor who had enlisted in the 9th (German) regiment at Milwaukee.

Mrs. Hartung Again Arrested.

There seems to be no end to the Hartung case, at Albany. The woman has now been in course of trial for the murder of her husband for three years, once or twice being convicted, and last of all, a week since, released by order of court. She has now again been arrested, on a bench warrant, and her counsel will move for a writ of *habeas corpus*.

Atlantic Coast Telegraph Line.

A proposal from Mr. Cyrus W. Field for connecting by telegraph the national forts along the southern coast was made to Gen. McClellan at Washington on the 28th.

The plan has much importance, even though carried out on a less extensive scale than now proposed. Now that the eastern shore of Virginia is in loyal hands, a land line may readily be extended from the North to Cape Charles, whence a submarine wire of twenty-six miles would bring Fortress Monroe and Newport News into immediate connection with the headquarters at Washington.

About one hundred and fifty miles submarine wire would connect through Fortress Monroe with the Hatteras forts. About five hundred miles more would reach successively the forts at Port Royal, Tybee and Fernandina—from which latter point there is a railroad telegraph line across Florida to Cedar Keys, on the Gulf of Mexico, within two hundred and seventy miles of Fort Pickens—about one hundred miles further carrying it to Ship Island, near the mouths of the Mississippi—making a total of about one thousand miles. But, even to the extent of Cedar Keys, involving an aggregate of only about six hundred and fifty miles, telegraphic communication with so many intermediate points would be so desirable that it is strange that nothing has hitherto been done. In the event of a war with a foreign power, our advantage from it would be incalculable.

A committee of the Senate has the matter under consideration; and Gen. McClellan has already approved the general purpose.

How Charleston is Blockaded.

By the arrival of the steamer Ericsson at Fortress Monroe from Port Royal, some interesting facts are brought in regard to the doings of the Stone Fleet. Seventeen of the old whalers were sunk in the harbor of Charleston, and it is believed that the blockade of that port is as effectual and effective as the English Government could desire.

The tides will in a short time form over vessels sunk in the manner above shown, a perfectly impassable bar, and one that no artificial or natural means will be likely to remove, without immense expense.

A Sure Sign.

Whenever you see a paper sneeringly apply the term "Abolitionist," "ultraist," "fanatic," to loyal and earnest Union men or papers, you may safely set it down as a pro-slavery sheet, and one that loves slavery more than the Union. Whenever it speaks of itself as "conservative," it is another sure sign that its allegiance is transferred to the slave-master. "Conservative," in the sense in which those prints employ the word, means to conserve and protect the practice of slavery. Those who are conservative for the Union, are called "Ultraists" or "Abolitionists" by such papers. A city paper, which has professed to be Republican for several years, exhibits all the symptoms described above, and is becoming more and more pro-slavery every day. It already eats more secesh dirt on an average, than the Chicago *Times*, and that is not a little.

Gen. James H. Lane.

As our readers are already informed, Gen. Lane, of Kansas, has been nominated to the Senate, and unanimously confirmed, as Brigadier-General, to command Kansas troops; the express understanding being that Gen. Lane's seat in the Senate shall not be vacated until he accepts his new commission, which he will not do until the Legislature of Kansas assembles, next month. He has no idea of doing anything that shall oblige Gov. Robinson and his appointee (Stanton), who has been in waiting for several months to take the place. The appointment of Gen. Lane to military command was due to him and to his State, not less than to the cause he has served so well. The news made all Kansas feel happy. The Leavenworth *Conservative* of the 19th says:

> The hearts of the people of Kansas will throb with joyous emotion as they read our special dispatches this morning. The favorite of Kansas and the Nation, the man who has conducted the most successful campaign of any loyal General, the man whose watchword is FREEDOM TO ALL, our own General Lane, upon his tried principles, has undertook to drive from his seat in the Senate while he was serving without pay in the field, has been sustained by the Administration and made Major General in the regular army, and we rejoice.
>
> "As Kansans read the glad intelligence they will re-echo the words of our dispatch, and in every hill-side the shout will go up, 'Glory to God!'"

☞ An important arrest was made at Cape Girardeau, Mo., on Saturday last. Capt. Wm. H. Childs, formerly of Ohio, who married a lady in Zanesville, Ohio, named Miss Emma Gallagher, some years ago (now deceased), and has resided in Cape Girardeau, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, had been in Cairo for some days, and got a pass to go to Cape Girardeau. No one here suspected his loyalty except his own brother-in-law. When at Cape Girardeau, he told one story to the Provost Marshal and another different one to the commanding officer. This was discovered by the nephew of Commodore Graham, who was in command of the Illinois steamer. He had him arrested and he was sent up to St. Louis. Childs wished to force his way through the lines, and go to Columbus. His uncle is the chief engineer of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and both are largely interested in it. His little daughter, three years old, is now in Zanesville, and will be well cared for by kind relatives, who deplore his traitorism to his country.

☞ One of the most shocking murders ever committed in the West, has just been brought to light in St. Clair county, Ill., opposite St. Louis. About one month ago, a man named James Ambrose, residing one mile east of O'Fallon, State, on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, in St. Clair county, Ill., suddenly disappeared. He was an old and wealthy citizen, highly respected, and well known in that section. His sudden disappearance excited considerable surprise, and his continued absence and the attending circumstances, finally led his neighbors to suspect that he had been foully murdered. A search was instituted, and on the 25th inst., the body was found, and the suspicions of the neighbors fully realized, a nephew of the murdered man, named Curry, having confessed to the perpetration of the crime.

☞ The Boston flunkies who fed and feted Mason and Slidell at Fort Warren should experience a salutary sense of shame at the authentic accounts which reach that city from Richmond, as to the condition of Col. Lee and his six fellow prisoners confined in a miserable cell, eleven feet by seventeen, which they are not allowed to quit for any purpose whatever. A single bucket is all that is allowed them for all their natural wants, and the stench and the foul air of the dungeon would be intolerable but for the cold draughts that find ingress, subjecting them to constant suffering.

☞ The Moline *Independent* of the 25th reiterates its charges that extreme cruelty and neglect are manifested by those in care of the corral of Government horses on Rock Island. The liberal allowance of the Government is withheld and squandered, and the herd kept at an expense of about forty dollars per day, allowing a rapacious contractor to pocket over one hundred dollars daily. If some of these Government contractors were shot, and a libb-ral share of the rest hung, the advantage would be speedily manifest.

☞ The Down Easters are alive to the fact openly stated in Canadian journals that on the first outbreak of war between this country and England, Maine would be the battle ground, and the Portland papers are urging on the State and General Governments active military preparations, especially to secure heavy fortifications for their splendid harbor which would be a tempting prize.

☞ A rumor is current in Missouri that the military authorities have received reliable information of the existence of a diabolical plot on the part of the rebels to destroy at a concerted time all the railroad bridges on the different lines in the State and tear up the tracks. Gen. Halleck's late order and the promptness with which his officers have carried it out will doubtless block the game.

☞ The Secretary of War has ordered for Col. Berdan's brigade the Spence Magazine Rifle. This gun fires eight times without charging, and can be recharged and ready for eight additional rounds in almost the same time that the ordinary musket can be loaded once. In appearance it is not unlike the Sharpe rifle. It is the most expensive arm in the service.

☞ On the 25th at Washington, Col. Berdan was seriously injured while trying a breech loading rifle, about to be adopted for one of his regiments of sharpshooters. The charge blew out the breech, making a severe contusion on the right cheek and fatally injuring the right eye.

☞ The Fulton County *Democrat* says the Mississippi and Wabash Railroad Company have again sued Fulton County for her $100,000 subscription to that Road. The county authorities propose defending the suit.

Hints to the Business Community.

[From the N. Y. World, 30th.]

We have received a communication from one of our most respectable merchants, signed "Astor," which embodies so much practical wisdom and intimate acquaintance with the commercial quicksands and rocks which have wrecked many of our business firms, that we publish it and recommend its maxims to all customers and friends as a reminder of what they ought and ought not to do. Some of our leading dry goods jobbers, who could trace their subsequent failure to "Joe White & Manager," might have been saved years of anxiety, besides the manufacturing for years of "notes for sale in Wall street," and averted final ruin, if they had been guided by the following "hints" by an old merchant:

"Junior partners should insist upon a provision in the copartnership agreement that no member of the firm should be permitted to draw any money from the concern except for absolute private expenses, and these should be limited to a fixed amount.

"One of the most prominent causes of failures in the jobbing trade is the withdrawal of capital by outside investments by senior partners.

"All business men who are known to have accumulated capital are important, more or less, for the investment of money in outside operations. Marvelous tales are told of investments by others in bank, insurance or other stocks, real estate, or other operations, that yielded enormous profits. Prominent men, who are known as shrewd managers in money affairs, are represented as having made investments in the rising proposed. Perhaps it is intimated that the peculiar business qualifications of the party thus approached have suggested to him the propriety of some bank or insurance company, and to become a director it is necessary to own a certain amount of stock. Many a jobbing merchant has, by flattery and other such appliances, been tempted and inveigled into the investment of money which afterwards proved the cause of his ruin.

"There is but one safe policy for a merchant—simple but sound. *Capital and accumulated profits should be kept in business*, at least until there is no longer a necessity for buying goods on credit. No jobber has a right to go to or to spare from his business until this point is reached.

"A large portion of the jobbing houses are more or less dependent upon bank notes to meet payments, yet it is quite common for jobbers and partners of jobbing stores while under the constant necessity of loans. Bank stocks pay dividends, perhaps, of seven per cent., while bank loans cost ten and a half per cent.

"*Owners of bank stock should be those who have money to lend, not those who are money borrowers. There is no absurdity more transparent than for a constant borrower to be a bank stockholder.*

"*Jobbers can make capital pay one per cent. a month in the purchase of goods.*

The Tribune.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1862.

Ten Tribunes for Ten Dollars.

We have concluded to reduce one of our club rates, and send ten copies of the Weekly TRIBUNE one year for *ten* dollars. Some of the Eastern papers are cutting under their former prices, and many friends who are getting up clubs for us have written to know if we will not send them ten papers for $10. We hereby answer their inquiries, yes. Make up the clubs. For Western people, the Chicago TRIBUNE is a more useful and better paper than any New York sheet.

THE OLD YEAR EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE.

The page Time turns to-day, to commence a fresh one, on the morrow, is weighty with its record of events. We have made History fast since the last New Year. In centuries of Human Progress no twelvemonth has borne a like burden of what so concerns the weal or woe of so many millions of our race. Wars the world has known. Governments have had their rise and fall, but History in all her pages has no parallel nor precedent for the events which constitute the old year, EIGHTEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE, the *Annus Mirabilis* of this age. To-day over half a million men are in their winter camps, whom the last New Year saw in the peaceful walks and callings of citizen life. War was not heard in all our borders, or if its faint mutterings came from a few discontented and malcontent States, past security, and a faith in our antecedents forbade all apprehension of war, and our citizens turned again to their farms and their merchandize. How rudely were these dreams of continued peace and prosperity dissipated, when the guns of Sumter broke the spell, and the cry to arms went through the land. Six hundred thousand men in our line of camps from the Kansas Border to the Chesapeake lie waiting the order to close in upon the rebellion. The record of the year shows much commenced, but little done. Eight months of war find us still upon the threshold, and the sound of the battle that shall decide the fate of the rebellion will be within hearing of the Capital. The record of the year is War, of a tremendous conflict begun, and EIGHTEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO carries on the work. The year closing has been one of warlike preparation by a nation long wedded to the arts of peace, and the new year finds our army read, for its work of crushing the rebellion. Shall we commence the year with a principle and a policy?

THE ACCOMAC EXPEDITION.

The Eastern prints having got done glorifying Gen. Lockwood's expedition into the eastern shore counties of Virginia, and the smoke raised over the achievement having subsided, the actual facts can now be told, without detriment to the public good. Our Washington correspondent, who is a truth-loving man, has been among the officers and privates of the Michigan and Wisconsin regiments, which composed a part of the expedition, and relates in the letter which is inserted this morning, the substance of the information gleaned from them. He is personally acquainted with very many of those composing both regiments.

The revelations of his letter are enough to cause one's blood to tingle to the extremities, and the very stones to cry out shame! A Committee has been raised by Congress, to investigate the cause of the Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, Big Bethel, Lexington, Wilson's Creek and other disasters to our national arms. Why should not the expedition into the Accomac district also engage their attention? We respectfully invite the consideration of the delegations in Congress from Michigan and Wisconsin, to the alledged ignoble part the soldiers of their States were made to play. Catching, flogging and returning the loyal slaves of reptile rebels are things not laid down in regulations, nor are they nominated in the enlistment bond. If these charges against Gen. Lockwood are substantiated, on investigation, the delegations representing those States, should go before the President and demand the immediate dismissal from the army of that officer. It is high time to put a stop to this sort of business. Our soldiers have been made to perform the part of blood-hounds for rebels quite enough. The army has been used as a slavery aid long as the people will tolerate it. The work of protecting slavery had better be left for the future, to the rebels, and the task of saving the Union made to engage the attention of our Generals hereafter, least we soon have no Union to be saved.

THE SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

Any marked change in the financial affairs of the country is apt to produce apprehension and alarm. The first announcement that the banks of the three leading commercial cities of the seaboard had suspended specie payments, and the conclusion that the banks of all the loyal States must adopt the same course, may lead many timid people to suppose that the country is plunging into quick and irretrievable ruin. Let all such quiet their fears, for no such calamity is likely to befal us. The first effect of a suspension always is greater ease in the money market. The banks of the commercial cities, although holding a large amount of specie, could not discount for fear that their coin would be drawn from them; while after the suspension they can afford, within certain limits, to be liberal. The same thing holds true of the country banks, and the danger is that they will be too liberal to customers. The pinch comes when the time arrives for a resumption of specie payments. Then everybody should have all sails close reefed, and be ready for "hard times," for there is no escape from them. The suspension of 1857 at the time afforded great relief to the business public; and as a proof that such is to be the effect now, we notice that stocks yesterday in New York sold at one to two per cent. above Saturday's prices.

Neither should any one fear that [illegible] coin of the country is at once to disappear from circulation. The suspension will simply make it worth from a quarter to one per cent. premium in New York, and perhaps two per cent. here. We shall have a currency and not a coin standard all over the country. The bills of sound banks and Treasury notes will pass from hand to hand in the payment of debts and the transaction of business, and as coin will be at a premium, it will be more rarely used.

What is to be the ultimate affect of the suspension upon the business and financial affairs of the country, how long it is to continue and what premium coin is to bear over the bills of sound banks, will depend upon so many contingencies that it would not be safe at present to make any predictions. The length and the cost of the war will mainly control the whole matter. While it is easy to understand what the present effects will be, as to the future each one of our readers is about as wise as the other, for probably the best conclusion any one can arrive at is, that he knows nothing about it.

The reasons which have influenced the New York banks to lead off in so decisive a measure are, of course, to be sought in the present condition of the country. First among these is the fact that sterling exchange is above the specie point, and their coin was flowing from their banks to Europe. They are also under arrangements with the Government to advance thirty millions of dollars, to be paid, if we mistake not, on the fifteenth of January. This would take a quarter more than all the coin they had, and force a suspension with or only vaults. If such a result must come, it is plainly better for the banks and the business public that it should occur while the banks are strong, for there would then be little if any danger of a panic.

In anticipation of what has actually occurred, Western bankers have for a week or two, perhaps longer, been drawing coin on their deposits—a drain which the New York banks could not stand many days. Other depositors were also converting in order to make the premium on the coin when the suspension should come. Our evening dispatches showed that they had lost seven and a half millions of coin during the last week. The suspension was, therefore, forced upon the New York banks as essential to their very existence. The large amount of coin they have held for several months, led most men to suppose that a suspension would not be necessary; but now that it has come so suddenly, let the business public take it quietly, and as there will be a general suspension, business will move along very much as heretofore and nobody will be seriously hurt.

THE SURRENDER OF MASON AND SLIDELL.

Our readers have already been prepared for what the telegraph announces has taken place, that Mason and Slidell have been given up. No other result could have been inferred from the tenor of dispatches from Washington for some days past, and it is certain that such finality has been reached. Our dispatches of Saturday afternoon give a full abstract of the correspondence that has passed between the two Governments, and the main features of Secretary Seward's letter are presented, in which the act of Commodore Wilkes is formally disavowed. It is pronounced an error for which England has a right to demand reparation and apology, the same as our own Government would insist on, under similar circumstances. In this decision as to the rights of neutrals and friendly powers, Mr. Seward says he is guided by time honored principles that constitute a large portion of the distinctive policy of the United States, and which he slyly hints have *not* British authority and precedent in their support. In this frank disavowal of the act of the naval officer the letter of Mr. Seward says:

> I had hardly fallen into this line of argument when I discovered that I was really defending and maintaining not exclusively British interests in the old honored and cherished American cause and republican authorities but upon principles that constitute a large portion of the distinctive policy by which the United States have developed their resources of a continent, and thus become a considerable power and won the respect and confidence of many nations. These principles were laid down for us by James Madison in 1804, when Secretary of State under Jefferson, in his instructions to James Munroe, our then Minister to England. Mr. Seward says, after quoting these instructions. "*If I decide this case in favor of my own Government, I must disavow its most cherished principles*, release and reverse and forever abandon its essential policy. The country cannot afford the sacrifice. If I maintain that principle and adhere to that policy, I must surrender the case itself. It will be seen therefore, that this Government cannot deny the justice of the claim presented. We have also always insisted all nations ought to do to us. In coming to my conclusion, I have not forgotten that if the safety of this Union required the detention of the prisoners, it would be done.

In short, it will be evident that Mason and Slidell were seized by an old established British policy, and are now released on the far better one for which the United States has contended for fifty years. As between the abandonment of the doctrine and the surrender of the prisoners, the nation at large will have no question.

In taking the rebel ambassadors from the Trent, Commodore Wilkes acted precisely as a British commander would have done. In giving them up, our Government, or our doctrine of inviolability of neutrals, does to England just what it would demand that England should do in similar circumstances.

This concession to the rights of neutrals, our nation has always been as prompt to maintain as England, on the contrary, has been persistent in invading. If, by this surrender, Great Britain is pledged to the principle, her own concession is no slight one, and is made the more prominent and memorable by the extraordinary notoriety given to this case.

And further, though the above constitutes a sufficient reason for the surrender, it is not dishonorable in our nation to maintain the position of unwillingness for a war with England, and of even more reluctance for a war in which the sentiment of European Governments is divided. It is no humiliation to confess that we are quite too busy at home to undertake an unnecessary war with a foreign nation. Our intentions as regards England are pacific. If there is to be a war, it must be plainly of her own seeking, and when it comes on that basis we shall be ready to meet it. If England is really hostile she will not lack of opportunities for showing it, and the Government at Washington will have taken a wise course in throwing upon her the onus of picking a quarrel. Events will speedily decide as to the wisdom of the decision.

THE NEW NATIONAL CURRENCY.

The telegraph yesterday gave us a brief, but it is presumed comprehensive, synopsis of the bill to establish a National currency prepared by the Committee of Ways and Means, and to be introduced into the House in a week or two. In its provisions it is totally unlike the old bank of the United States, and hence not so liable to become a political machine, dangerous to the stability and the integrity of the Government. The principal, and so far as we can see, the only benefit the Government hopes to derive from the scheme, if carried into successful operation, is the large demand it will create for National securities.

If the details of the bill are so framed as to inspire general confidence, such will unquestionably be the result. The safety of the issues under the law, and the permanent advantage to be derived from it, if any, will depend very much upon the ability and the degree of honesty with which the law is administered. The Bank Comptroller at Washington, should be a man of the most consummate financial ability, and one who would value his integrity above all earthly considerations. Under the management of a man destitute of these qualifications the nation would, in a very few years, have a "stump-tail" catastrophe, to which our Illinois affair last spring would not bear the slightest comparison.

It may be that several important particulars were omitted in the telegraphic synopsis; but the bill plainly should have provisions that will guard the following points: A maximum of capital should be fixed; there should be central redemptions by States or districts, and if the bill can be so framed as to be really a success, and make the circulation of the country uniform, a tax must be laid on the bills of other banks, light at first, but increasing periodically, till ordinary "bank-rags" are taxed out of existence.

At present we are not prepared to give an opinion as to what the maximum of capital should be; but in order to command the confidence of capitalists some limit should be fixed. If we are to have an indefinite amount of paper money issued, capitalists cannot know how much expansion there is to be, and men of real money will hardly venture to invest in a banking system of limitless issues. If we mistake not the entire paper circulation of the country is, or was, about two hundred millions of dollars. The war expenses of the Government may possibly enable the country to bear service as much; but this is so important a matter that Congress should not decide it without the greatest care and the fullest discussion of the subject in all its bearings. An over issue of paper will simply give fictitious values to the entire real and personal property of the nation to be followed at no distant day by financial ruin and disaster.

Although it would appear from the synopsis that the bills of the banks adopting the system, are to be everywhere receivable for public dues, both experience and sound financial principles require that stringent provisions for central redemptions should be included in the bill, at say from a quarter to a half per cent premium. The banks of New England should redeem in Boston, New York in New York city, Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, Maryland and Delaware at Baltimore; and generally at the capital or chief commercial city of each State; or several States, if not too large, as New England for instance, in their leading financial centre. The capital should be apportioned properly among the States or districts, and the banks should be located in cities of not less than five or six thousand inhabitants. The people of Illinois have had experience enough with banks located in swamps and nameless places to warn the Nation against a repetition of so blighting a blunder.

Without such a tax upon the bills of other banks as will gradually and surely drive them out of circulation, there would be an "irrepressible conflict" between them and the Government "pets," that would be neither healthy nor profitable, either to the banks or people. If we are to have a national currency, let it be a reality: one that the people will approve, simple and safe, and one with whose face they can be sure so familiar that altered bills and counterfeiting will be next to impossible.

Congress, by inaugurating the proposed system, will assume a very grave responsibility, and every possible safeguard should be thrown around it that their united wisdom and the history and the experience of the world can furnish. It is wonderful how small a defect will destroy the safety and the efficiency of any banking law. Knaves and sharpers will take advantage of it to swindle the people without mercy. With us, "confidence" in any banking system "is a plant of slow growth," and until we get a copy of the bill and have time carefully to examine all its provisions, we cafnotindorse it. It will be well for our readers as far as possible to adopt the same policy.

PROBABILITIES OF A GENERAL ADVANCE.

If any deductions could be drawn from appearances, it might be safely stated that the Government has no intention of permitting the army to subside into winter quarters without first making a general effort to crush the military power of the rebels. It looks as if a grand movement of our army in Central Kentucky was about taking place. The military bridge across Green River is about completed, and 60,000 soldiers are ready to pour over it and attack the rebel centre at Bowling Green, where 40,000 of the enemy lie entrenched. The rebels have been so effectually cleaned out of Missouri that Gen. Halleck can spare thirty thousand men to aid in the attack on Columbus. The gun-boat fleet are in condition to take part in the assault. A simultaneous movement made on Bowling Green and Columbus with the immense forces at the disposal of Buel and Halleck, should soon place the National troops in possession of Nashville and Memphis.

A serious movement is taking place on the Upper Potomac. That an advance on Winchester is contemplated is well known. Gen. Reynolds, who has succeeded Gen. Kelly, the slave catcher, it is expected, will advance from Romney with fifteen thousand troops on Winchester, and a strong force—including one of our Chicago regiments, Col. Light's—is ready to cooperate with Reynolds. Gen. Banks has his face also turned towards Winchester, and is ready to advance on that point with his division of 15,000 men. The three columns can, therefore, bring to bear on Winchester more than 35,000 men. Should this key point be seized, the left wing of the rebel army will be turned, and the road to the rear of Manassas will be open. If the enemy throws forward strong detachments to strengthen his left wing, he must necessarily weaken his centre and right, in front of which lies the main body of McClellan's great army, ready to advance on the foe at such a juncture.

There still remains to enumerate Gen. Burnside's expedition, which will be under way in a few days, if no unforseen delays retard it. Our army in South Carolina has been largely reinforced, as has our force at Fort Pickens and Ship Island. Thus stands the situation. But time will show whether appearances can be relied on. We confess we are not sanguine that any serious forward movement is contemplated this winter. But here are half a million of soldiers on the borders of secesh, anxious for the word to advance.

The rebels perfectly understand the position of our armies, and perhaps the real intention of our Generals better than do the loyal people. A Richmond paper of late date says, that should the South be beaten at Bowling Green, and on the Potomac, the rebels would be reduced to a guerrilla warfare, and that two armies of such magnitude could again hardly be got together; and that the South would have to depend upon the virtues of a Fabian policy and wear out the patience and resources of the Union by interminable skirmishes.

THE NEGRO REGIMENT.

We ask the attention of the class of people who style themselves "Conservatives," to the article copied from the Indianapolis *Journal*, headed "The black-rebel soldiers at Yorktown." We think that this dose will cure them of their repugnance to the proposition of the Secretary of War, to employ loyal slaves in whatever way they can do the most service for the Union cause. The Indianapolis *Journal* has been a stout defender of the "conservative" policy, and has vociferated against using the slaves to fight the rebels. But the news from Fortress Monroe has completely "knocked into pi" all the arguments it has employed, and brought it over to the TRIBUNE'S ground. The *Journal's* philosophy gave way before the charge of the negro regiment upon the German soldiers, and it lustily calls out for a change of tactics. It thinks "it is about time to begin fighting the devil with fire." "If the rebels attack us with negroes," it asks, "why should we not repel their attacks with negroes?" And it adds, "it remains to be seen how long the Government will hesitate when they learn these facts?"

One thing should be borne in mind, that the negroes employed by the rebels to bear arms against us, are pressed into that service. Every man of them would desert to our side, if opportunity offered. Their hearts are with the old flag. They have no affection for the banner of treason, no love for the rebels, and they feel no allegiance to Jeffdon. They are thoroughly loyal, and desire nothing so much as a chance to be enrolled among the defenders of the Union. They are willing and anxious to serve the National cause, in any capacity in which they can be most useful, from loading a wagon to digging an entrenchment, from procuring forage to charging on a rebel battery.

How much longer shall these people be compelled to aid the rebels? When will our side permit them to strike for the Union? When their weight is thrown into the Union scale, the rebellion will quickly kick the beam.

THE CAIRO LUMBER FRAUDS.

A short time since the TRIBUNE made an expose of the villainous scheme through which the Government was being swindled by false invoices of lumber bought in this city. Our Cairo dispatches last night inform us that those charges have been substantiated in a Court of Inquiry, and other developments are promised. Let us have them all. The winter is a good time to clear up these matters, and let the blows fall where they will, bring out all the swindlers.

AN UNJUST CHARGE.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Times* of Saturday makes an unjust and purely malicious charge against Adjutant-General Fuller, who recently visited this city in his official capacity, to consolidate the skeleton regiments at Camp Douglas. The assertion that he

> put the Government to the expense of a special train, which remained over at Chicago during the six or eight days he was here,"

is purely false, and the writer, who signs himself "A Republican Tax-Payer," must have known it. To give the refutation in most unmistakable terms, we send only give the telegram received on Saturday afternoon from Judge Fuller, at Springfield. He says:

> "The charge in the *Times*, yesterday, against me, about special trains, is an unqualified falsehood. I neither rode in or saw a special train during my absence."

Proposition of the Chicago Times to Convert Illinois into a Slave State.

The Chicago *Times* is in favor of introducing slavery into Illinois to cultivate cotton. True, it proposes to commence with negro apprenticeship, but that is slavery under another name and leads directly to the genuine article. Its secession proclivities have been apparent for a long time, and now it takes a step forward and advocates converting Illinois into a slave State.

After referring to the recent articles in the TRIBUNE on the subject of cotton culture in this State, it proceeds to say:

> Now we suppose everybody knows that there are vast tracts of excellent cotton-lands in Southern Illinois. The fact has been notorious for years. And we suppose all intelligent people know why these lands have been devoted to the culture of cotton only to about the extent that New England farmers cultivate flax—a little for their own consumption. The reason is, white labor cannot be obtained in sufficient supply to prosecute the crop, and if it could be obtained, it is too dear to admit of a profitable crop. *Negro labor is required.* The harvest of a few weeks gave the simple personal number of hands, and these must be forthcoming at the nick of time or the crop is lost. These can be forthcoming only as they shall be at the constant command of the cultivator, and they can be at its command *only by some compulsory process.* The prevention is that negro slavery will not be introduced into Illinois. It is not needed, and the sentiment of the State is averse to it. But negro *apprenticeship* may be introduced into the State, and this is needed in the cultivation of cotton. *It is indispensable.* Illinois cannot be successful cotton without the cultivation of cotton would speedily add millions to the annual production of Illinois. It would bring the staple for ten million acres of our cotton lands under speedy cultivation, and immense now wasted would be made to blossom as the white rose, and there is no serious difficulty in the way of introducing this adjunct to the world the pledge of its supply. The question will soon be forced upon the Northern states whether they will take it and use it, or leave the monopoly to the Southern Confederacy, and pauperism and crime, in truth, the negro question will shortly be what it has not been before with Illinois, and the Northern States, which shall have the race in hundreds of thousands at our doors, or those hundreds of thousands at a month. This will be—inevitable, though there be no general emancipation, as there must not be. What shall we do with these hundreds of thousands of black barbarians? Shall we make laborers of them in fields where their labor will be valuable, or shall we allow a sickly abolition sentimentality to make vagabonds of them? Here is a question for the decision of which will determine the value of the cotton lands of Illinois. Let nobody take the wrong side of it in haste. Let everybody canvass it in the most serious way, and bring his mind upon it. A question of African apprenticeship cannot be offensive to anybody of a right mind.

So we must introduce hundreds of thousands of Southern slaves whose labor can be "commanded by compulsory process," in order to grow cotton in Illinois. We turn over the task of replying to this monstrous proposition to the *State Register*—the Democratic State organ. In its issue of the 28th inst. it appends the following comments to the above text from the pro-slavery *Times*:

> We were surprised to find the foregoing in the Chicago *Times*. It is not probable that very many white men in Illinois will be tardy in discovering the "wrong side" of this proposition, which is to establish in the heart of the fairest regions on earth to the occupancy of negroes, nominally freemen, but really slaves. It is to exclude white labor from Southern Illinois, and to supply places with that of freed negroes from the South, who, by some process not defined, are to be made *quasi* slaves again. An underlying proposition, indeed, to be made in Illinois, for the approval of Illinois white men. The mass of the people in Southern Illinois are white laborers from the Slave States. Such are their children, who left their homes in slave States, because of their inability to labor profitably by the side of slaves, and there will they learn with astonishment that, from no respectable a source as the Chicago *Times*, it is advised that compulsory negro labor be brought in competition with their's upon the soil of Illinois.
>
> If cotton can be grown in this State, it can be grown by white men, and if such a crop can be profitably grown by white men, *will grow* it. If it cannot be made profitable without filling up that line of section of our State with a population of degraded slavery, let us go on with the product of "hog and hominy"—let us continue to raise corn, wheat, rye, oats, tobacco, wine and fruits. Better that the many should live in comfortable small farms, but by farms than that the few, with vast fields, by degraded labor, should reap large ones.
>
> Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." When the [illegible] negro shall be found to be rolled in upon us as one of the results of the war, it will be time enough to discuss the disposition to be made of them. We are not red without hope that the war will result in Illinois being where they belong. If cotton cannot be made one of our profitable products, except by enormous accessions of negro population, whereby white labor for other productions will be repelled, and our State made a bastard copy of Georgia or Alabama, we can, and will, forego cotton growing.

We are pleased to learn that the Illinois Central Railroad Company is taking steps for the introduction of cotton cultivation along the southern line of its road, but we trust that this influential company is not doing so with a view to an expected initiation of the policy recommended by the *Times*.

What we would prefer that cotton should not be product of our State rather than have it produced by the means suggested by the *Times*, we will not say. It is enough for us, at least, to discuss the question of its profitable cultivation by white labor. If cotton and negroes are inseparable institutions, let us do without the former. By the adoption of a certain clause in our State Constitution, by an almost unanimous vote, the people of Illinois have shown that they have a decided distaste for association with the latter.

Gen. Scott's Return.

Gen. Scott was absent from this country only forty-seven days. The larger part of this short period was spent on the ocean. Nearly all the remainder of the time he was at Paris, where he arrived on the 20th ult. His departure from that city took place on the 10th inst. It is known that the General has not one of avowed enmity to our Government, and if I were not satisfied that he first visited Canada, and is now in Europe, as an avowed emissary of the Confederate States."

International Exhibition at London in 1862.

Mr. C. T. Chase, of this city, has been appointed assistant or agent, by the United States Commissioners, to give such information as may be necessary to aid those desiring to exhibit at the coming Fair in London. Communications addressed to him, P. O. box 2040, will receive prompt attention.

It is to be hoped that our citizens, and the people of the Northwest generally, will make a good display at the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations.

Cost of the Army.

The estimates to be submitted to Congress for the fiscal year, give the military expenses thus:

Cost of Army proper	$93,606,975
Military Academy	102,611
Fortifications, Ordnances, &c	16,160,150
Army Militia	3,000,000
Total	$108,159,36

That is upon the supposition that the army is not to be increased on its present basis!

A NEW VIEW.

Slavery in the Seceded States.

A writer who discusses in the New York *Evening Post* the subject of slavery in the seceded States of the Union, presents the following view of it:

> "The true doctrine of the case, then, is, that secession is abdication by the State authorities and the impossibility of preventing it by the loyal citizens is the evidence of their absolute inability either to conduct their State government or to create a new one. The authority of Congress is the only authority left, and that becomes sole and supreme. The State clubs by its own act into the condition of a Territory to be organized, provided with a government and protected in the enjoyment of it by the power of the nation; and that power is subjected to no other restraints than those which the Constitution imposes upon it within the Territories over which Congress has sole and exclusive jurisdiction."
>
> "The end of our reasoning, then, is this: The seceded States are without governments and without laws. Secession is the annihilation of State authority, and the reversion of all authority into the hands of Congress. With the death of the State as an organized community die all its political rights, and so far as the simple personal rights of a state of nature remain. Among the artificial polities and institutions which accession annihilates is slavery. Slavery is a State institution, which, standing upon no natural foundation, goes down when the authority which supported it goes down; and that authority being at an end, slavery is at as end in every seceding State. Secession is in fact, and in law, abolition. That system, as terminated by the political termination of the State authority. Slavery can have no existence, and no conception, till some competent authority shall re-enact and reinstate it; and as Congress is the authority competent to act and to maintain it within the limits of the Constitution, slavery can have no existence within the limits of the Confederate States unless sanctioned by the National Government. Abolished for the time by the acts of seceded States themselves, it only remains for Congress to afford to the world the pledge of its purpose by passing the Wilmot Proviso; and to see to it that no State be reinvested with the functions of sovereignty without the permanent renunciation of this wrong."

The New York *Independent* takes up the chain of reasoning where the writer has left it, and carries it forward, arriving at the somewhat novel conclusion that slavery is *legally abolished by the act of secession*, and that the slave States should be treated as United States Territories by our Government. We submit the *Independent's* view to our readers, without expressing an opinion of its soundness. Let every one draw his own conclusions. Says the *Independent:*

> If this view of the case is just, it will at once be perceived that it has some important relations, upon which it is worth our while to dwell. In the first place, it relieves the President and the military authorities of all embarrassment in dealing with slavery in the seceding States. Slavery, by the act of its friends of secession, abolished their own governments, and, with them, all the institutions and arrangements to which those governments gave validity. The relations of foreign allegiance have not thereby abolished, because these stand upon a foundation of natural right, which no act of secession can legitimately recognize it. Any civil or military officer who assigns a man of one of those States, black or white, to the absolute dominion of another, is in law a mere kidnapper. He has no shadow of legality for what he does; and for which, as soon as the war is over, he prosecuted civilly for the injury, and criminally for the violence, which he has committed. The subordinate can be shielded only by the explicit order of his military superior; and the superior who gives such an order may be held responsible, when martial law is at an end, to the civil tribunal. Not only so, but the officer who recognizes the authority of South Carolina or Virginia when that State is in rebellion against the Government, gives aid and comfort to the rebellion. Wherein does the act fall to reach the guilt of treason? Those States are dead; their institutions have perished; and the authority of Congress is the supreme and only authority. Any person who pleads, then, the laws of a seceding State as authority for its acts, does thereby recognize a power which is in rebellion against the Constitution, and becomes an abettor of the treason. The only grounds of action which a military commander can have, are the natural rights of man and the agencies of a state of war; and it will be for the civil courts to decide hereafter whether he who seizes within his camp a peaceful and loyal man, and consigns him to slavery, can justify himself against the complaint of the fellow-citizen whom he has so cruelly outraged.

The State Defences of Pennsylvania.

A Harrisburg dispatch of the 26th says that Gov. Curtin is to visit Washington for the purpose of consulting with the National Government upon the military affairs of the State generally, but more particularly upon the best means of defending Pennsylvania from a foreign enemy. The Governor, some time since, wrote to J. G. Totten, Chief of the Engineer Department at Washington, requesting early information respecting the present state of defence of the river Delaware and the harbor of Erie. The reply, in substance, is as follows:

> Fort Delaware is now ready to receive its entire armament, amounting to 135 large guns, besides a work flanking 24-pound howitzers.
>
> Fort Mifflin is also ready for its entire armament, consisting of forty-seven large guns.
>
> Besides these preparations, an application is now before Congress for a grant of money to commence a new fort opposite Fort Delaware, and for the means of increasing the defensive capacity of Fort Mifflin, as well as completing the barrack accommodations of Fort Delaware.
>
> With respect to Lake Erie, Congress is also asked to grant a large sum of money for the purpose of providing temporary defences at such points on the Northern frontier as may require them. This is a matter of great importance with it. Slavery having terminated there, Congress is to reorganize the local governments on a basis of freedom, and to admit them to the Union again only upon conditions which shall forever exclude the possibility of any repetition of that crime. At present the States are in the condition of territories. They have a portion of the national dominion within which no governments exist, and where armed bands, under pretended authorities, but in reality the tools of a national organize, are harassing the people and warring against the nation. It is for Congress to say when, by whom, and on what principles local governments shall again be formed there, and what the rights and territories of such governments shall be; and in doing this, Congress is subject to the Constitution alone. Slavery, with all the compromises, provisions and recognitions which it once had within that wide and dark domain, is dead, and should never more be suffered to vex us.
>
> If slavery is dead, and if the systems of law which established it are no more, then no officer of the Government can legitimately recognize it. Any officer, military or civil, who assigns a man of one of those States, black or white, to the absolute dominion of another, is in law a mere kidnapper. He has no shadow of legality for what he does; and for which, as soon as the war is over, be prosecuted civilly for the injury, and criminally for the violence, which he has committed. The subordinate can be shielded only by the explicit order of his military superior; and the superior who gives such an order may be held responsible, when martial law is at an end, to the civil tribunal. Not only so, but the officer who recognizes the authority of South Carolina or Virginia when that State is in rebellion against the Government, gives aid and comfort to the rebellion. Wherein does the act fail to reach the guilt of treason? Those States are dead; their institutions have perished; and the authority of Congress is the supreme and only authority. Any person who pleads, then, the laws of a seceding State as authority for its acts, does thereby recognize a power which is in rebellion against the Constitution, and becomes an abettor of the treason. The only grounds of action which a military commander can have, are the natural rights of man and the agencies of a state of war; and it will be for the civil courts to decide hereafter whether he who seizes within his camp a peaceful and loyal man, and consigns him to slavery, can justify himself against the complaint of the fellow-citizen whom he has so cruelly outraged.

The Port Royal Cotton.

A considerable part of the cotton brought to New York from Port Royal will require ginning, and an agent of the Government is purchasing machinery for that purpose, to be sent down to Port Royal to be used there. One advantage of this seizure of unginned cotton will be that the Government will get possession not only of the staple, but what is also of great importance at this time, the seed. Application has already been made to the departments at Washington for a large quantity of cotton seed to be used the coming season in this State, and Secretaries Seward and Chase have taken much interest in the matter, and promise that all the seed that can be procured shall have such destination.

A New Confederate Emissary.

Thurlow Weed says that several secessionists were passengers with him to Havre, on board the Arago, among whom, one in rank and most prominent, was his personal acquaintance and once friend, Col. Winthrop, of New Orleans, whose Massachusetts origin and Whig ancestry, gives effect to his plausible but vindictive hostility. He says:

> "Of this gentleman, with whom my relations have been pleasant, I should not feel at liberty to speak, if his motive here was not one of avowed enmity to our Government, and if I were not satisfied that he first visited Canada, and is now in Europe, as an avowed emissary of the Confederate States."

One Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars Gone.

It is stated that Alexander Cummings has withdrawn from the New York *World*, and contemplates making a trip to Europe to recuperate his health, by travel on the continent. The Investigating Committee state in their report, that in addition to the loose, irregular, if not fraudulent manner in which this worthy disbursed public money during the time he was acting in the capacity of Quarter Master, that they have traced one hundred and forty thousand dollars of Uncle Sam's coin into his hands, but have been unable to trace it out. They cannot find what he has done with it. No vouchers were presented. No account was given by him of what he had done with the money. He is now off for Europe. People will have their suspicions excited, and some will be so uncharitable as to believe that he has pocketed the $140,000, and is now going to Europe to enjoy his ill-gotten plunder.

☞ The New Hampshire Republican State Convention meets at Concord on Wednesday, the 1st, and Gov. Berry's re-nomination will be contested by Lemuel N. Pattee of Antrim, who sought the nomination last year. The Democrats meet next week, and will either nominate George Stark of Nashua, their candidate last year, or Paul J. Wheeler of Newport.

LATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Notwithstanding Colonel Rankin has resigned the Colonelcy of the Lancers, at Detroit, the regiment will be formed and put in the field under its original designs. There are very many privates enlisted who are Canadians, but they will remain. Major A. M. Clark, a wealthy Canadian, has taken the oath of allegiance and also proposes to remain.

—The Chatham (Canadian) *Argus* learns from good authority that Mr. Bisson, of the Bank of Upper Canada, has forbid accepting any drafts upon the United States, as commercial intercourse between the two nations is stopped for the present.

—The Common Council of Rochester, N. Y., have taken steps looking to the fortification of Genesee harbor. A public meeting will be held in regard to it.

—A correspondent of the Detroit *Tribune*, writing from Allison, Mich., says that so far from the people of Lapeer county being indignant at the arrest, by the United States Marshal, of Josiah Butler, David Wattles and one Dr. Hopkins, and their consignment to Fort Lafayette, there is a general rejoicing by all classes except a few rebel sympathisers, like-minded with themselves. There are not three men in Lapeer county who could be better spared.

—It is rumored that Thurlow Weed will assume the editorship of the N. Y. *World*, on his return from Europe.

—Some of the leading citizens of Kingston, Canada, have presented Dr. Parker, the editor of the Kingston *Whig*, with a Hoe's power press.

—Dr. Gustave E. C. Weber, of Cleveland, has been appointed, by Gov. Tod, Surgeon-General of Ohio.

—Hon. Addison G. Rice of Cattaraugus county, is prominently mentioned for Speaker of the New York Assembly, which meets on Wednesday.

—Mr. Thomas Hogg, the celebrated Florist of Yorkville, has been appointed Marshal of the American Embassy at Japan. This appointment is highly judicious, as Mr. H. will be able to avail himself of whatever is new in horticulture in that country, and introduce there what will be new and of use to the Japanese. Hon. Robert H. Pruyn, Minister to Japan, will sail from New York on the 1st of January.—*Albany Journal.*

—The following additional troops have been ordered to report for drill at Fort Leavenworth: Three regiments of infantry from Wisconsin; two companies of cavalry from Minnesota; a battery from Minnesota.

—Gen. Hunter has issued an order very satisfactory to troops who have labored under a disadvantage with the Paymaster because their regiments were incomplete. Gen. Hunter, believing that the men are justly entitled to their pay and not responsible for incomplete organizations, has ordered that they be paid forthwith.

—A marriage "under romantic circumstances" took place in Cairo on Christmas Day. A couple from Liberia were anxious to get married by the Rev. Mr. Gordon, who is in jail for maltreating a United States officer, but application was made to Sheriff Crawford for that purpose. Mr. Craw consented to the marriage, but refused to allow it to take place in the cell, and insisted on its taking place in the parlor. The marriage took place yesterday morning in the parlor of the jail, and the happy couple united, feeling, no doubt, that the marriage bands were more firmly tied by being welded together within the stone walls and iron bars of the county jail. "Everybody to their taste, as the old woman said when she kissed the cow."—*Cleveland Herald.*

—The lake fleet of revenue cutters which left for the seaboard some weeks since, in charge of Capt. Quttinger, have all arrived at Boston except one, (the Howell Cobb,) wrecked at Cape Ann, Massachusetts. They experienced severe storms on the coast, and were separated in a snow storm off Nova Scotia.

—Gen. G. Wagner, late Register of the Land Office at Stillwater, Minn., is Colonel of a South Carolina regiment, and was one of the rebel officers at Port Royal.

—The 6th New Hampshire regiment, Col. Nelson Converse, has passed through New York to Washington. They will probably join Gen. Burnside's expedition.

—The first battalion of the Massachusetts cavalry, Col. Robert Williams, has passed through to Annapolis, and the remaining companies will follow in a few days.

—The New York *Express* says it is understood that after the new year sets in, the Board of Police intend to make some important changes in the distribution of the force. Several captains, and some twenty sergeants, it is said, will receive orders to change places. This is in pursuance of a system long since adopted by the Commissioners: not to allow a man remain in a place too long. The unfaithful hands of the slaveholding faction have plucked down rain on the institution which their madness intended to defend. Our only duty—the only duty of the President and of the National Legislature—is to recognize the fact, and to readjust the revolutionized society of the seceded States on record. once with it. Slavery having terminated there, Congress is to reorganize the local governments on a basis of freedom, and to admit them to the Union again only upon conditions which shall forever exclude the possibility of any repetition of that crime. At present the States are in the condition of territories. They have a portion of the national dominion within which no governments exist, and where armed bands, under pretended authorities, but in reality the tools of a national organize, are harassing the people and warring against the nation. It is for Congress to say when, by whom, and on what principles local governments shall again be formed there, and what the rights and territories of such governments shall be; and in doing this, Congress is subject to the Constitution alone. Slavery, with all the compromises, provisions and recognitions which it once had within that wide and dark domain, is dead, and should never more be suffered to vex us.

—Captain James McBride, of Monroe, Mich., has been elected Colonel of the Michigan regiment, raising in that city. Captain McBride has resided in Monroe over thirty years, and has filled some of the first positions in the county. At the breaking out of the Mexican war he commanded a company of cavalry, which was ready for the chapparals of the land of the Montezumas. He has been connected with military affairs for over twenty years, and is considered one of the best officers in the State. He is, we believe, a native of Ohio, and is the representative man of the Irish population, and stands high among all classes.

—The Indianapolis *Journal* of Friday says that of the 16,000 Enfield rifles ordered for the State of Indiana, in England, by Mr. Owen, 12,500 have been delivered, and the balance, 3,500, were about to be shipped when Her Majesty's Government put on the embargo. The *Journal* says that Gov. Morton has endeavored to supply this deficiency by procuring Springfield rifles to the same amount.

Gov. Morton has arrived home from Washington, and it is announced, as one result of his mission, that the General Government will take possession of the arsenal at Indianapolis, and make of it one more depot of ammunition for the Western Army during the war. This virtually says the *Journal*, establishes the arsenal at Indianapolis as a permanent Government institution.

—Four companies of the Mulligan regiment (Col. McDermott,) were mustered in at Monroe, Michigan, last Tuesday, and the remaining six companies will be ready to muster in by another week.

—The Niles (Mich.) *Enquirer* says: "The statement that the Government has given his consent to the raising of a battery to be attached to the Twel

The Tribune.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1862

The Response for The Bulletin.—Ten copies of the WEEKLY TRIBUNE will hereafter be sent for twenty dollars, and twenty-one copies for twenty dollars. Does any man want such a paper as the CHICAGO TRIBUNE for a smaller price than this? We hope not.

MEETING OF THE MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION.

Chicago Merchants vs. the Great Western Railroad.

At a special meeting of the Mercantile Association, called last evening to consider the interests of the merchants of Chicago in reference to the Great Western Railroad, in view of the anticipated embroglio with England. Fred. Tuttle, Esq., was called to the Chair.

On motion, the Chair was requested to designate three gentlemen to act as auditors for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were appointed:—William E. Doggett, John Tyrrell, and John V. Farwell, Esq'rs.

The Secretary Stated that the object of the meeting was to take into consideration, the fact that the employees of the Great Western Railroad had organized themselves into a regiment, with the Superintendent as Colonel.

C. G. Wicker, Esq., stated that he had learned that the Superintendent of this railroad had organized all the employees into companies for the maintainance of the English authority in Canada. If this road had taken an attitude of hostility against the United States, "whence the great body of their business was derived," he was in favor of giving the traffic to our own people.

J. V. Farwell thought the better course was not to give to inflame public feeling, but to throw water on the flames.

C. G. Wicker said that the Canadian papers had for a long time gloated the people to arm, and had threatened, in case of war, to burn Chicago, Milwaukee, Buffalo, and Detroit, and he was in favor of adopting retaliatory means. If they sent powder, he was in favor of sending ball. For himself, until the Superintendent disavowed the act, he would not ship a pound of freight, or travel a mile over the road.

Mr. Farwell further counselled peaceful measures, and thought, as Mason and Slidell had been surrendered, the cause of the war had "slid out." Mr. McKindley also thought that the Association were getting a little fast. That the Canadians had some cause for talk was evident, from the fact that the United States had acknowledged that they were wrong.

Mr. Wicker thought that the United States had backed down, and presented an humiliating spectacle, after the Cabinet and Secretary Wells had covered Com. Wilkes all over with admiration. The merchants of Chicago would not be influenced by the cowardly conduct of the Government, and if Mason, Slidell, McFarland and Eustis from the British Legation, at Washington.

I will without loss of time forward to Her Majesty's Government a copy of the important communication which you have made to me, and I also have the honor to confer with you personally on the arrangements to be made for delivering the four gentlemen in question to the persons who will be charged by me for the protection of the British flag.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) LYONS.

From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 29, (via Baltimore, Dec. 30.)—As the steamboat Express, which runs between Old Point and Newport News, was leaving the latter place this morning, a rebel flag boat was seen off Sewall's Point. She wore a commodore's blue pennant, which was mistaken, at first, for a flag of truce; but on the approach of the Express within range, a rebel boat fired a shot across her bows, and followed it by shells. The greatest consternation prevailed for a short time on board the Express, which was unarmed. The schooner Sherwood, employed to bring water from Newport News, was also fired into, but was not struck and deserted by her crew. The schooner drifted down with the tide and was taken possession of by the rebel tugboat, and towed to Craney Island.

The rebel gunboat subsequently made its appearance for a second time, but the Express got away, and reported the circumstances to the flag ship. After a long delay, about half a dozen gunboats got started towards the same, and threw a few shells into Sewall's Point and the Fig Island batteries, without result, so far as known.

The Sherwood had been towed with nine anchors and fitted out with a valuable force pump for water boats. Loss estimated at $7,000.

The brig Empire sailed yesterday for Port Royal, to open trade. She took a cargo of fresh provisions, &c., also a Mason and Slidell Zouave uniform, and a full apparatus for inflating it, consigned to Gen. Sherman.

A note from Gen. Huger to Gen. Wool, announces that the rebels intend to send 240 prisoners of war down the James River, from Richmond, by a flag of truce, whenever they will be received. Gen. Wool will send a flag of truce for them on Thursday or Friday.

From Washington.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—*The Tribune's* Washington correspondent telegraphs:

It will the rejoice the friends of Colonel Corcoran, Wood, and other gallant officers held as hostages by the rebels, to know that on the suggestion of Mr. Faulkner, their prospects will probably be much more comfortable. That gentleman, upon his arrival in Richmond, read the military authorities a lecture upon their neglect to the prisoners earlier in the war, saying that even privateersmen in custody in the North were better treated. Mr. Ely received $100 in gold by the hand of Mr. Faulkner, as Corcoran's private banker. Colonel Cole to be distributed among the destitute private soldiers imprisoned in Richmond, and so disposed of it. Letters brought by Mr. Ely from prisoners sent to Tuscaloosa, Ala., indicate that they are quite comfortable. None of the prisoners at Richmond, Charleston or Tuscaloosa suffer much from food and clothing.

The *World's* dispatch says the manner in which Mason and Slidell were delivered up has been left to Lord Lyons, who will have it done in the manner least offensive to the Government. They will probably be put on board the steamer Amazon, which sails for Europe next Wednesday, and which will, it is understood, be required to stop at Boston to take the rebel commissioners on board.

The *Times* says that Mr. Thouvenal, the gentleman who has just returned from Richmond, will learn that in conversation, Jeff. Davis stated that the blockade must be raised before commissioners from England would accept. Lincoln could not surrender Mason and Slidell, and their situation would lead to a war. He expressed the hope that the rebels would accept the United States troops in a fair fight, and that it was impossible for them to be conquered. Many members of the rebel Congress declared that rather than come again into the Union the South would become a province of England.

The reply to the resolutions of the House of Representatives requesting the Secretary of War to furnish all general orders issued in reference to the transportation of troops, the manufacture of new railroad, and also all orders designating the amount to be paid for such purposes. The Secretary submits a report from Quartermaster-General Meigs, which it is stated that the Quartermaster-General has opened no general orders on this subject.

NEW YORK BANKS SUSPEND.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—At a conference of our city banks, Saturday evening, by a unanimous vote they resolved upon an immediate suspension of specie payments. The action was taken by their large preponderance to the Government, rendered this step in their judgment necessary. We presume it will be generally acquiesced in by the banks of cities, though the drain upon our city banks results from causes which tend rather to the strengthen than weaken the banks of the interior.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The bank statement shows a decrease in loans of $1,027,903; a decrease in specie of $7,855,455; a decrease in circulation of $158,858, and a decrease in deposits of $8,425,609.

On Saturday evening the banks did not have much over $25,000,000 in specie. Many of them are paying specie as usual, while others have been paying specie in advance of it, specie pay a portion of the State debt, and interest thereon till January 1st.

PHILADELPHIA BANKS SUSPEND.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30.—The banks of this city have resolved into pond specie payments in consequence of suspension in New York.

From Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 30.—*The Journal* has letter from Cumberland Gap, giving an account of the guerilla warfare in that county. The result was 5 killed, six were none.

Humphrey Marshall, heading 6,000 troops is fortifying Abingdon, and is expected soon to march towards Maysville.

Gen. Buell had ordered a brigade under Gen. Garfield forward, and a battle is expected shortly.

Attachments were filed in the Louisville Chancery Court, on Saturday, under the Confiscation act, against the property of persons subjecting to such process the property of rebels who remain in such authorized thirty days after the passage, against Gen. Buckner, Ex-Minister Preston, and Gov. Crutchfield's property for $50,000 each, and smaller sums against several others.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Regular Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.

United States soldiers are not to be Starved to Death.—Fighting Joe Hooker Ordered to the Front.—Gen. Halleck Did not Sing the Song, that Antietan Day.—The Rebels Did not Take the Oath of Allegiance.—Gen. Dix Officially Denied.—Gen. Pleasonton Contradicted Himself.—The Alleged Royal Progress of the Union Generals.—Secretary Seward's Instructions to Mr. Adams on the Slidell Question.

[From our own Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1861.

I have learned some additional facts concerning the late expedition to Accomac and Northampton counties, on the eastern shore of Virginia, which go far to illustrate the character of the rebellion, and the means necessary to put it down, as well as to expose the insane policy hitherto employed. The officers and soldiers with whom I have conversed, forming a part of the expedition to the eastern shore, commanded by Brig. Gen. Lockwood, concur in saying that if Congress should institute an inquiry as to how many "arms were laid down" by the rebels in Northampton, *and what disposition had been made of them*, it would be learned that not a musket had been delivered up, not a loyal white man had been found, and not a single thing had been brought back as a trophy of the expedition, except a few cannon which the frightened rebels buried in the woods, and *which the slaves pointed out to our officers* pretty much for Gen. Dix's proclamation and the President's premature proclamation upon it. If the inquiry should be pursued a little further, it would be found that Gen. Lockwood devoted himself chiefly to *catching*, FLOGGING and returning runaway negroes! The ignoble task of pursuing those poor wretches, the only loyal persons in the country, and giving them forty lashes apiece, prior to returning them to their rebel masters, was put upon our unwilling soldiers. Do bayonets think? I tell the fathers and brothers of the 4th Wisconsin and 6th Michigan regiments, that the blood of those brave boys never boiled half so fiercely against Jeff. Davis as it did against their own pro-slavery commander. Returning from Pungoteague, the principal port on that side of the Chesapeake, the Wisconsin and Michigan regiments were delayed a long time for want of transportation. The New York 5th had been taken back to Baltimore before the others, and, as it appeared, had carried away half a dozen "contrabands." While our soldiers were waiting in vain for a boat to carry them away from the abomination of desolation which they found on the penin sula, down came a small steamer from Balti more with the half dozen "contrabands," concurely manacled, to be handed over to their masters, who were, alid ejlll are, as blosted and bliad with venom against their benefactors as so many adders in dog-days. The officers at Pungoteague impressed this steamer into the service of carrying their regiments back—otherwise they might have remained there till this time. There was plenty of "transportation" to be had for these six loyal blacks, but an awful scarcity of boats to carry our soldiers to Baltimore over the same route.

A brief history of this expedition, so fraught with advantage to the Union cause, may not prove uninteresting. It consisted of the 4th Wisconsin, one-half of the 6th Michigan, one-half of the 5th New York, one-half of the 21st Indiana, the 2d Delaware and Purnell's Maryland Legion. The entire force was 4,200 strong, but it was commonly remarked in Baltimore that the Maryland and Delaware troops were sent down rather to conciliate than to conquer, and that thus the expedition was only 2,500 strong for fighting purposes. The whole were commanded by Brigadier General Lockwood, of Delaware, a West Pointer, and for many years an instructor in the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Arrived in Accomac county, the expedition had very little difficulty in frowning down all signs of rebellion. Accomac has only a sparse slave population, and it gave 600 votes against the secession ordinance. In Northampton, however, there was a rebel organization of 3,500 men, with ten pieces of artillery. A good many years ago the people of the eastern shore had declared war against New York oystermen, and these cannon were provided for that sanguinary emergency. They were tolerably well supplied with ammunition by reason of the same accident. When our soldiers arrived at the border of Northampton county they learned that all the bridges had been destroyed, the piers at the various landings burned, the water let out of the dams, the country flooded, and the only road on which an army could move, obstructed with fallen timber and covered with fortifications ten miles apart, on which the rebels were mounted. But as our forces moved down towards the mouth of these forts, rumor flew ahead of them and magnified their numbers to fully 15,000 men! The garrison in fort No. 1 inconsistently fled without firing a shot, carrying their cannon with them, which they buried in the woods. News of the abandonment of fort No. 1 flew like wildfire through all the others, and they were successively deserted by their vaunting defenders. When our troops marched down the peninsula they found them empty, swept and garnished. Slaves began to come into the camp, telling our officers where the rebel cannon were secreted, and the day from which they dug them and send them back to their rebel masters. Our boys captured all the rebel cavalry horses, and Gen. Lockwood made them give them back, with one or two exceptions where there were no claimants—the owners having escaped across the bay and joined Beauregard's army. Some of the officers proposed to make those who received back their horses take the oath of allegiance, but this they stubbornly refused to do, and Gen. Lockwood gave up the horses without insisting on the oath. Arrived at Drummondtown General Lockwood made a speech to the inhabitants, saying that as the owner of slaves, as was his father before him, that he had come among them (the rebels) to protect them in all their "rights;" that if their negroes ran away he would catch them and return them, and he would recommend whipping for the first offence and *shooting* for the second. As soon as the tenor of this speech became known in our camps, a mutiny broke out, which was only quieted by the strenuous efforts of the regimental officers, and notwithstanding their exertions to pacify the excited and indignant soldiers, Gen. Lockwood was insulted by groans and hisses the next time he was seen in the camp of the 6th Michigan. Meanwhile the rebels had hidden their arms and returned home, to look after negroes. Having got their fugacious property, they commenced with one accord to sneer at the expedition and the Government which set it on foot, and to insinuate to the soldiers that they were being made pack-horses, and food for powder, to no earthly purpose; that they, and their rulers and generals, were a laughing-stock to acnsible men the world over, for their pooltroon attempt to carry the spirit of peace into war. So general and so successful was this taunt, and so obviously *just*, that our soldiers would have given them a few illustrations of real war, if they had not been kept under rigid peace discipline by their commander. Still, one or two good results were obtained by the expedition. It was to all intents and purposes a piece of arrant tomfoolery, but it converted all the soldiers into practical and fanatical Abolitionists, and it furnished an asylum for Brigadier General Lockwood. This mighty warrior remains in Northwood. This mighty warrior remains in Northampton, while his Maryland and Delaware regiments, governing the province as a sort of cruiser, catching negroes, and probably rebuilding the ruined bridges, roads, dams and piers at Government expense. I do not assert that he is actually doing this last kindness to the rebels; he was merely *talking about it* when our soldiers captured the fugitive-slave steamer and bade adieu to the "loyal" county of Northampton, on the eastern shore of Virginia.

Our D. F.'s (doctors of finance) in both houses of Congress might learn a lesson from the people of Accomac and Northampton counties. When our troops went there they found an enormous flood of paper currency, consisting of bank-notes, confederate Treasury notes, Virginia Treasury notes, county and town shinplasters, and merchants' tickets for small change. Prices were up to about the figures which ruled in Virginia at the close of the revolutionary war. One of our captains went into a store at Drummondtown to make a purchase, and, up on taking a handful of change out of his pocket, the merchant remarked that "that was more specie than he had seen in the course of eight months trade."

Now, is not this expedition a sad commentary on the President's announcement to Congress and the country that "these things prove that the cause of the Union is gradually growing in power and progressing." The President, in standing Gen. Lockwood's expedition with other things, honestly and firmly believed what he said. He never says anything that he does not honestly and firmly believe. But he was deceived by those in whom he had a right to place confidence. The fact is, *the cause of the Union has not progressed one inch anywhere, but has constantly lost ground everywhere.* It is not in the power of Mr. Seward, in accordance with whose ideas the war has been thus far conducted, to put his finger upon a single point in the cause of the Union has progressed an inch, unless it be Nelson on Aquia Creek. On the contrary, our puerile and pro-slavery policy has brought upon us the contempt of our enemies, and the deep, burning indignation of our friends. Practically, it has embroiled us with England, for if we had fought our battle against slavery, the cause of the rebellion, it would have been impossible for any ministry, any court party, any aristocracy, any manufacturing class, to drive the English people into a war with us.

LITTLE EDDIE, THE DRUMMER.

A Reminiscence of Wilson's Creek.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

BENTON BARRACKS, MO., Dec. 30, 1861.

A few days before our regiment received orders to join Gen. Lyon, on his march to Wilson's Creek, the drummer of our company was taken sick and conveyed to the hospital, and on the evening preceding the day that we were to march, a negro was arrested within the lines of the camp and brought before our Captain, who asked him "what business he had within the lines?" He replied "I know a drummer that would like to enlist in your company, and I have come to tell you of him." He was immediately requested to inform the drummer that if he would enlist for our short term of service, he would be allowed extra pay, and to do this, he must be upon the ground early in the morning. The negro was then passed beyond the guard.

On the following morning there appeared before the Captain's quarters, during the beating of the reveille, a good looking, middle aged woman, dressed in deep mourning, leading by the hand a sharp, sprightly looking boy, apparently about twelve or thirteen years old. Her story was soon told. She was from East Tennessee, where her husband had been killed by the rebels, and all their property destroyed. She had come to St. Louis in search of her sister, but not finding her, and being destitute of money, she thought if she could procure a situation for her boy as a drummer for the short time that we had to remain in the service, she could find employment for herself and perhaps find her sister by the time we were discharged.

During the rehearsal of her story the little fellow kept his eyes intently fixed upon the countenance of the Captain, who was about to express a determination not to take so small a boy, when he spoke out, saying, "Don't be afraid, Captain, I can drum." This was spoken with so much confidence that the Captain immediately observed with a smile, "Well, well, Sergeant, bring the drum, and order our fifer to come forward." In a few minutes the drum was produced, and our fifer made his appearance, a tall, round shouldered, good natured fellow from the Dubuque mines, who stood, when erect, something over six feet in height.

Upon being introduced to his new comrade, he stooped downward, with his hands resting upon his knees that were thrown forward into an acute angle, and after peering into the little fellow's face a moment, he observed, "My little man, can you drum?" "Yes, sir," he replied, "I drummed for Captain Hill in Tennessee." Our fifer immediately commenced straightening himself upward, until all the angles in his person had disappeared, when he placed his fife to his mouth and played the "Flowers of Edenborough," one of the most difficult tunes to follow with the drum that could have been selected, but nobly did the little fellow follow him, showing him to be a master of the drum. When the music ceased, our Captain turned to the mother and observed, "Madam, I will take your boy. What is his name?" "Edward Lee," she replied; then placing her hand upon the Captain's arm, she continued, "Captain, if he is not killed—" here her maternal feelings overcame her utterance, and she bent down over her boy and kissed him upon the forehead. As she arose, she observed, "Captain, you will bring him back with you, won't you?" "Yes, yes," he replied, "we will be certain to bring him back with us. We shall be discharged in six weeks."

In an hour after, our company led the Iowa First out of camp, our drum and fife playing "The girl I left behind me." Eddie, as we called him, soon became a great favorite with all the men in the company. When any of the boys had returned from a horticultural excursion, Eddie's share of the peaches and melons was the first apportioned out. During our heavy and fatiguing march from Rolla to Springfield, it was often amusing to see our long-legged fifer wading through the mud with our little drummer mounted upon his back—and always in that position when fording streams.

During the fight at Wilson's Creek, I was stationed with a part of our company on the right of Totten's battery, while the balance of our company with a part of the Illinois regiment was ordered down into a deep timbered ravine upon our left, in which it was known a portion of the enemy was concealed, with whom they were soon engaged. The contest in the ravine continued some time, Totten suddenly wheeled his battery upon the enemy in that quarter, when they soon retreated to the high ground in the rear of the ravine. In less than twenty minutes after Totten had driven the enemy from the ravine, the shells, flaunting the rebel flag, occasionally ran out of the dark forest behind which the army, "Lyon is killed," was heard to echo and re-echo from one end of the line to the other. By his dress I recognized him as belonging to the enemy. It appeared that he had been shot through the bowels, and had fallen near where Eddy lay. Knowing that he could not live, and not wishing to be taken prisoner, he had crawled to him, took off his buckskin suspenders, and corded the little fellow's legs below the knee, and then lay down and died. While he was telling me these particulars, I heard the tramp of cavalry coming down the ravine, and in a moment a scout of the enemy was upon us, and I was taken a prisoner. I requested the officer to take Eddy up in front of him, and he did so, carrying him with great tenderness and care. When we reached the camp of the enemy, the little fellow was dead. It is now about two weeks since I made my escape from McCulloch's grasp. I have re-enlisted for the war, and as we are likely to be in camp for some time, I may write again of other scenes through which I have passed.

THE STORM FLEET "LAUNCHED."

Sealing up a Southern Port.

OPERATIONS IN CHARLESTON HARBOR.

[Correspondence New York Herald, 31.]

DECEMBER 18.—It is proposed to scuttle the entire fleet of whalers, which will be here tomorrow, in the main ship channel—the grand channel that runs parallel to Morris Island by Cummings Point, and thence in a northwest course to Charleston, passing under the guns of forts Sumter and Moultrie and Castle Pinckney—all well known works.

Yesterday morning we got under way from Port Royal at ten o'clock, and stood out for the bar, at which time all the vessels had weighed anchor, and were slowly moving out under full sail, which were scarcely filled by the light westerly breeze that prevailed. The day was a delightful, and every indication promised good weather for some days to come. The wind was so light that at an early hour it became evident that the old whalers must be towed out over the bar, if they are to be out at all. So we hitched on to the bark Fortune, of New London, an ancient hulk, that might have been engaged in the blubber business before the Revolution for aught I know, as she looked rusty enough and venerable enough to have claimed a century as her age, and had the claim allowed. Her sails were yellow, and her rigging innocent of a late coating of tar. After her quarters hung the graceful and fleet whale boats, looking as fresh and new as from the builders hands. These were evidently considered the guns of the ship, though her solitary 6-pounder stands stones—for their purpose. Still, with all her want of beauty and the freshness of youth, it seemed safe to think that she was to be put to so ignominious an end after a long career of usefulness; but she is to go.

Towing her along at an easy pace, we soon passed the bar, and were then ready to anchor just outside, to wait the hour of final departure.

We then ran rapidly back and took in tow the Rebecca Simms, also of New London, who followed her over the bar, when she also came to anchor.

The day was nearly consumed in getting these two vessels out, and it was dark when we got the William Lee, a fine old ship, safely over the bar, when we, too, came to anchor for the night.

During the day the Cahawba, on which was Captain C. H. Davis, Fleet Captain of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, who had been detailed to the command of the expedition, was engaged in towing out vessels, as were the Ericsson, Philadelphia, Pettit (tug), and the Mohican and Pocahontas (men-of-war). At nine o'clock sixteen of the "pebble fleet" were over the bar, besides two which had come in from sea belonging to the second stone fleet for Charleston.

During the evening Lieutenant White, of the Ottawa, visited several of the ships, one of which proved to be the Marguerite Scott, of New Bedford, belonging to the new stone fleet. She had been seized a short time since on a charge of fitting out as a shaver and condemned, the Government having her under employing her to this purpose. As she is in good order and well fitted out, she will doubtless be used in the Port Royal service, as a tug. She will not accompany us to Charleston, but will proceed in the harbor, and report to the flag officer.

The night passed quietly enough. At an early hour this morning the fleet got under weigh, nearly all standing north, under sail. The wind was light, but enough to give us the left hand side of the channel. When we had her in a good position, Capt. Stevens, through a speaking trumpet, ordered the captain to cast off the hawser.

"Aye, aye, sir," came back the reply; and the hawser was let go and rousted in again on our deck, and the bark was left to her fate. The trembling old bark, being under some headway moved slowly on to the exact spot we wished her, and then struck the bottom; and her sailors gave her the last time to the water, the chain rattling out as cheerfully as any chain might which had made its last run, and the old bark was left to make her own grave. The plug had been knocked out as the anchor dropped, and the water rushed madly and wildly in. In a moment the whole bottom of the vessel was swept away, and the masts of the officers and crew rapidly passed over the bulwarks and into them.

We didn't wait for them, but hurried out, to tow in another before dark. The first ship touched bottom and the plug was drawn as the sun went down. Each had finished her course at the same moment; one to rise on the morrow as bright and glorious as ever, to be the pride of her owners, and go about under the combined action of the elements which it had braved so long and so well. Alas! that a vessel, worn out in the service of her country, should be sold, and come to such an ignoble end.

The Rebecca Simms was towed in and anchored on the other side of the channel, and the water filled her hold, and she sank slowly and in a dignified manner, rocking uneasily, to be sure, as the water poured in, but going down with every hope and spar in place, as a brave man falls in battle, with his harness on.

We had now got the position of the bar clearly marked out, and the Florida's boats were relieved from their unpleasant position as buoys, and they returned to their ship. Our work was reported to Capt. Davis, and he requested the Pocahontas and the Ottawa to tow in and sink all the ships they could, after the moon had risen high enough to afford us light to work by.

At eight o'clock we were again at work. We towed in and sunk four more before the low water made it impossible for the loaded ships to be placed in position, and then we ran out again and anchored outside the bar.

The Pocahontas towed in two during the evening. Marshall's light was the only harbor was dotted with whaleboats, running from their respective ships to the Cahawba, carrying the officers and crews of the vessels engage and the valuable sails and furniture of the ships. Some of the men-of-war boats were engaged in visiting the sunken ships and securing floors, boilers, and such other acceptable provisions, rope, furniture, &c., which come very handy on shipboard, and thus prevented them being totally lost with the ships. By midnight most of the ships had sunk. Some of them lay heeled over and the sea flowing on their decks.

The channel is to appear quite well blocked up, and with the eight ships we are to sink to-morrow, well placed, it will trouble a pilot hard to get through the main ship channel, I fancy.

DEC. 20th.—At sunrise to-day we began our labors again. We have towed in and scuttled four ships to-day, and the Pocahontas has also towed in four, which have been sunk, and the channel is effectually blockaded. Many of the vessels had been stripped of their sails before they were towed in, but several were still unstripped. Captain Davis sent all the whaleboats, with their crews, to the latter vessels, and they were soon stripped of their sails and valuable cordage, which were taken to the Cahawba.

One ship, the Robin Hood, of Mystic, originally an East Indiaman, and the wonder of her day, was selected as a fit repository for all the sails not worth sending to the North and such cordage and other articles as the enemy would like to obtain. When ready she was to be burned. During the afternoon the men were engaged in stripping away the masts of the ships, and at sundown, out of sixteen vessels, but one, the Robin Hood, was unshorn of her masts and spars.

I have frequently read of masts going by the board on ships at sea in a gale of wind, but never saw the deed performed till to-day. It is certainly worth witnessing, where you have not the accompaniments of a howling gale, a wild mountain sea and a groaning ship, leaking at every joint beneath you. Under these circumstances the rattling away masts may afford a sense of relief, but none of gratification or pleasure. But, with a fleet of ships sunk across and blockading an important channel, the sight was one of interest. Here were fifteen dismasted hulks, in every possible position, lying across the channel—some on their ports, others on their starboard sides. Some were under water forward, others aft. The sea swept over some of them; others stood on upright keels, and spouted water from their sides, as the heavy seas rolled them and dropped them heavily down upon the sand again; and proudly, among them all, was the East Indiaman, brave Robin Hood, with her graceful tapering masts towering aloft, and apparently still afloat.

In the background were Morris Island, the brownish red walls of Sumter, and the low walls of Moultrie, over which flew a rebel ensign, large enough to wrap a ship in. One poor, miserable tug-boat, constituted the rebel navy in those waters, and a small schooner, made up of the moving objects in the background of the picture.

At six o'clock this evening, fire was applied to the Robin Hood, and she began to burn brightly, but not briskly, and it was not until eight o'clock that the midnight watch on the ship is now burning, at midnight, and will soon sink.

During yesterday and to-day Forts Sumter and Moultrie have been firing heavy guns at intervals, for what purpose or object is not known. Our work being accomplished, we leave for Port Royal to-night.

The Van Wyck Congressional Committee Investigating Corruption in the Army—Shoddy Straw Mats and Pickles for the Army.

An exchange, in noticing the report of the Van Wyck Congressional Investigating Committee says:

Secretary Cameron selected a Mr. Cumming for fourteen years connected with the Philadelphia *Bulletin*, and for eighteen months one of the publishers of the New York *World*, to make arrangements for the purchase and forwarding of supplies to Washington, a business that needed not only capacity, but extensive experience, and in the latter, certainly, Mr. C. seems to be entirely deficient. But he was a bosom friend of the Secretary of War, and must be rewarded for his services; and what devoted it if the army in Washington did not starve for want of good clothing and wholesome food, if Mr. Cameron could repay a debt of gratitude to a political friend and admirer?

In addition to this, Mr. Cumming, of New York, appointed one George D. Morgan, a relative and law partner, to act in connection with Mr. Cumming, and $2,000,000 were placed at their disposal.

Within a few days after Cummings was invested with this authority, he drew from the bankers, through Secretary Chase, at New York, $250,000, $90,000 of which as Cummings insists, was applied to pay for the purchase of straw mats for the army, and by Mr. Blatchford, a member of the firm, and the residue, $100,000, he placed to his own credit at the Park Bank of New York city, and the states in his evidence that he made purchases for the Government to the amount of $160,000.

Mr. Cummings employed a clerk, Mr. Jas. Humphrey, and exhibited in that, as in most other transactions, a confiding disposition hardly consistent with a thorough business man engaged in large affairs.

Mr. Cummings appeared to have known nothing whatever about this Humphrey, except that Thurlow Weed said he was a reliable, and upon this endorsement he was authorized to make purchases to an almost unlimited extent, and how he proceeded, he tells himself:

Question—Of whom did you purchase clothing?

Answer—I cannot recall—the names now. They were nearly all strangers to me. I will produce the vouchers.

Q.—Did you purchase the clothing in the market?

A.—Yes, sir, I called to my assistance a clerk, through whom I purchased what I could.

Q.—What were the clothes—full suits.

A.—No, sir. They were principally which covered the larger part of the purchase—pantaloons and hats.

Q.—What did you do with them?

A.—I forwarded them to Annapolis.

Q.—On what requisition did you purchase hats and pantaloons?

A.—No requisition.

Q.—How came you to purchase hats and pantaloons rather than anything else?

A.—Because I supposed they would be needed, as hot weather was coming on. I had seen the soldiers pass through here with warm winter clothing, which I believed they could not endure when the warm weather should come on.

Q.—Then you were guided by your own information and judgment as to what would be needed at Washington?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Had you any other guide?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Had you any limits imposed upon your actions except such as were imposed by your own discretion?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—You purchased such kind, quality, and amount as was dictated by your own judgment solely?

A.—Yes sir.

The clothing was linen pantaloons and straw hats to the amount of $221,000.

The same individual, under the direction of the Secretary of War, contracted with Brinckerhoff for 70,000 pairs of shoes, at $2.30 per pair, which were worth about $1.35, thereby robbing the people of about $70,000.

Among *army supplies* purchased by Mr. Cummings are the following:

280 dozen pints *pt* ale and porter, at $1.37 ..... $ 383.60

95 quintals cod-fish, 300 boxes herring 214.37

240 boxes cheese, 30 packages butter, and cartage 1,011.79

6 barrels of tongues 127.51

1 670 dozen straw hats 4,145.40

19,680 pairs of linen pants 17,330.00

25 barrels of pickles 4,116.00

25 casks of Scotch ale, price not stated .....

10 casks of London porter, price not stated .....

700 Hall's carbines (rejected arms) $18 each; 35 each, $30, in all 11,880.00

It is not unnecessary to say that these are not understood to be "army supplies," as the term is used, and that Hall's carbines, which is the same arm sold by the War Department in the following June for $30 each.

But this is not all. The large sum of $140,000 still remains in the hands of Mr. Cummings, for which he can show no vouchers, and the presumption, of course is, that he is a defaulter to that amount.

"His Grace, the Earl of Shaftesbury."

The telegraph has already informed us that the Earl of Shaftesbury, the great patron of English Abolitionism, declined to attend a meeting at Exeter Hall to pray for a continuance of peace with England, for the plea that it would be interpreted by Americans as a clouked rebuke of the English Government. Possibly another cause influenced the declination of the noble Earl: the apprehension that in praying for peace with the "Lincoln Government" he might wound the virtuous sensibilities of his new friends of the Slaveholding South. The Albany *Journal*, upon information doubtless received from Mr. Weed, says:

The Earl of Shaftesbury recently remarked to a gentleman who had a conversation with him on American affairs:—"I, in common with almost every English statesman, deprecate the rupture of the American Union. It has been the policy of England to brook no rivalry, especially upon the continent, to her own greatness. We justly fear the commercial and political rivalry of the United States. With a population of thirty millions now, they will soon, if not checked, overshadow Great Britain. We cannot look upon such a monstrous growth without apprehension."

That the Earl of Shaftesbury speaks of a powerful class, there is too much reason to fear. The influence of our Democratic institutions upon the English masses, has been a source of just dread to the aristocracy. They have seen in that influence an agent that was slowly but surely undermining their own power. They know that if it is not counteracted, their supremacy over the destinies of the country will, if not overthrown, be greatly impaired.

The fact cannot be disguised, that the British aristocracy not only fear, but hate us. That they will do all in their power to compass our overthrow is what they will gladly embrace with Southern rebels, in the hope of breaking our power as a nation; that they will leave no stone unturned to bring our Government to an end—we have no shadow of doubt. How far they will be able to accomplish their amiable designs—how far they will deem it safe to drive their well laid plans into the channel. We can barely make out with our glasses the ruins of Coffee, bags, and it that service our purpose quite as well.

Mr. Gardner, the gunner on one of the Florida's cutters this morning, and one on either side of the channel on the bar, where they are to sink the hulks.

At noon we stood in, at Captain Davis's request, and anchored inside the bar, to protect the boats and drive off the rebels if they should attempt to annoy us. The sea is a little heavy; but we can, with a glass, discern the dim outlines of Fort Sumter, and occasionally get a glimpse of the rebel flag over it.

Morris Island is within two miles and a half of our anchorage, and we can detect two rebel batteries upon it, near Lighthouse Inlet, and a number of houses also upon Cummings Point. A little steamer, probably the Emma Davis, flaunting the rebel flag, occasionally ran out of the dark forest behind Fort Sumter, took a hasty glance at our whale fleet, now all here, and then incontinently retreated to its safe position under the guns of Moultrie and Sumter. It did not venture within reach of one of our range, and seems to be well satisfied in witnessing our movements at a safe distance.

At half past two this afternoon, the tide being nearly full, we recrossed the bar and ran a hawser to the the bark Theodosia of New London, which was to be the first victim, and towed her across the bar the ship's length on the left hand side of the channel. When we had her in a good position, Capt. Stevens, through a speaking trumpet, ordered the captain to cast off the hawser.

This is not all. The large sum of $140,000 still remains in the hands of Mr. Cummings, for which he can show no vouchers, and the presumption, of course is, that he is a defaulter to that amount.

It is now understood that nearly if not quite all the positions of the rebel forces are under command of Beauregard in person, and that he awaits reinforcements to re-open the fire and clear out the rebels.

The Black-Rebel Soldiers at Yorktown—The Enemy our Loyal Troops are Called to Meet.

[Port Monroe cor. (23d) Indianapolis Journal.]

Yesterday morning Gen. Mansfield, with Drake De Kay, aide-de-camp, in command of seven companies of the New York Germania, left Newport News on a reconnoissance. Just after passing Newmarket bridge, seven miles from camp, they detached one company as an advance, and soon after their advance was attacked by six hundred of the enemy's cavalry. The company formed to receive cavalry, but the cavalry advancing, declined to the right and left, when within musket range, and unmasked by a body of seven hundred negro infantry, all armed with rifles, who opened a fire on our men, wounding two lieutenants, and two privates, and rushing forward, surrounded the company of Germans, with their negro front, killing a part of the negroes, and wounding several more. The main body, bearing the firing, advanced at a double quick in time to recover their wounded, and drive the enemy back, but did not succeed in taking any prisoners. The wounded men testify positively that they were shot by negroes, and not less than seven hundred were present, armed with muskets.

This is, indeed, a new feature in the war. We have heard of a regiment of negroes at Manassas, and another at Memphis, and still another at New Orleans, but did not believe it till it came to our own knowledge, attacked our men. There is no mistake about it. The 20th German were actually attacked and fired on and wounded by negroes.

It is time this thing was understood, and if they fight us with negroes, why should not we fight them with negroes too?

We have this afternoon reports too long, and now let us fight the devil with fire. The feeling is intense among the men. They want to know if they came here to fight negroes, and if they did not intend to fight to the end. The wounded men swear they will kill any negro they see, so excited are they at the dastardly act. It remains to be seen how long the Government will hesitate, when they learn these facts. One of the Lieutenants was shot through the back of the neck, and is not expected to live.

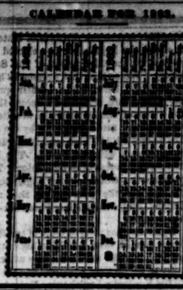
The Great Fire at Charleston.

[Charleston Correspondence Richmond Enquirer.]

The most irreparable of the results of this awful calamity, is the wholesale destruction of the antiquities of our city. Great numbers of those grand old mansions of revolutionary memory, which have given to Charleston the prestige which attaches to every city of the ancient regime, now lie blackened and smouldering heaps of ruins. The stately halls in which the rebels of '76 were wont to live and move, are lost to the rebels of '61. The ancestral homesteads of the Heywards, the Lawrences, the Rutledges, the Middletons and the Haynes, and of many other families whose names are entwined with the history of the State, are leveled with the ground.

POOR BISCUIT.—Ladies, if you would avoid the mortification of having poor biscuit for tea, when you have company, use only D. B. De Land & Co.'s Chemical Saleratus. It will produce the same happy result every time, so that you may know what to depend upon. You can get it of any respectable dealer in the country.

[sp] Public Speakers and Singers can use "Brown's Bronchial Troches," or Cough and Voice Lozenges, as freely as required—as they contain no opium or anything that can injure the system. They are invaluable in allaying the hoarseness and irritation incident to vocal exertion, and are also a powerful auxiliary in the production of melodious enunciation.



CALENDAR FOR 1862.

THE CAMPAIGN IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Gen. Rosecrans' to His Troops.

Officers and Soldiers of the Department of Western Virginia:

You have closed an arduous campaign with honor to yourselves and satisfaction to the country. None but those who have been with you, as I have, can fully appreciate your trials and privations.

Your triumph has been three fold—over your own inexperience, the obstacles of nature, and the rebel forces.

When our gallant young commander was called from us, after the disaster of Bull Run, this department was left with less than fifteen thousand men to guard three hundred miles of railroad and three hundred miles of frontier, exposed to *bushwhackers* and the forces of Generals Floyd, Wise and Jackson. The northwestern pass into it was fortified and held, Chest Mountain secured, the rebel assaults there victoriously repelled, and

The Tribune.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1862.

Death of Col. William A. Webb.

The telegraph this morning brings us the sad news of the death of William A. Webb, Colonel of the First Regiment Douglas Brigade, which occurred at Smithton, Mo., on the 24th inst. Farther than that his death was caused by typhoid fever, that scourge of camp life, the telegraph leaves us without particulars. Col. Webb was born at Dover, Maine, in 1834, and was a graduate of West Point. In 1853 he received commission as Brevet Second Lieutenant in the Fourth U. S. Infantry, and was subsequently First Lieutenant in the Fifth Infantry. After the breaking out of the present war, he received a commission dated May 14th, 1861, as Captain in the Sixteenth Regiment, recruited largely from this city, and for a long time stationed at Desplaines on the Northwestern Railroad. Subsequently he received the position of mustering and subsisting officer at this point, and spoke in the highest terms of the kind and watchful care and with the aid of his excellent and practical advice; nearly if not all the regiments which have left here, were organized. At the time of the organization of the Douglas Brigade, Col. Webb took an especial interest in its formation, and so largely gained the affections of the men that he was unanimously elected Colonel of the First Regiment, a position which he accepted with the permission of the War Department. After conducting his regiment to its destination in Missouri, he returned to this city to settle up the affairs of his office, and leaving it in charge of Lieut. Christopher, he rejoined his regiment in Missouri a few weeks since, and entered upon the active duties of service. The next tidings, we learn, is his sudden death, a providence which must be the signal of unusual grief in the military and social circles of this city.

Col. Webb was but a young man, only thirty-four years of age, and had but just entered the brilliant path marked out for himself. In military science he was an expert, and was possessed of all those qualities so desirable in a military officer, which at once secured the affection and commanded the respect of his subordinates. In personal appearance he was the very beau-ideal of the soldier. His figure was tall and strongly built, and his carriage dignified and graceful. As a horseman, he had few, if any equals, and in every respect was possessed of those qualities which render a man an idol with his soldiers. He was assiduous and energetic in the performance of all duties attaching to his position, and probably to him as much as to any other man is due whatever of military bearing and skill our regiments may have possessed.

In social circles, Col. Webb was equally prominent, and was as accomplished a gentleman as he was gallant in his profession. Graceful in his manners, agreeable and rapid in his conversation, and genial and kindly in his relations with all, he secured universal respect.

Brief as has been his career, it has not been without service. He was connected prominently with the Utah Expedition, and brought to that mission the valuable results of his change for oysters, pies, cakes, fruit, cigars and such like, which he begged, and then left for home. But this strange business is played out by the new regulations, and sutlers will not in the future filch so large a share of the soldiers' wages.

Capt. Cleveland expects to return to his regiment on January 4th, and wants to take along with him twenty first class men.

PARAGRAPHS OF ALL SORTS.

The St. George Episcopal Church, at Lee, Mass., just erected at a cost of $6,000, was burned last Tuesday morning.

—The venerable Judge McCook, of Steubenville, Ohio, father of the "fighting family," has now gone to Kentucky, rifle in hand, to pick off some of the "secesh." He has been all summer along the Potomac, and has numbered his game by the scores from Williamsport to Budd's Ferry. The Louisville *Journal*, noticing his arrival, says he has gone to the advance camp across Green River, expressing great regret that he missed the Manfordsville skirmish.

—Wm. Bartlett, formerly editor of the Bangor (Me.) *Daily Mercury*, was found frozen in the snow near his house last Tuesday morning.

—White Sulphur Springs, Ohio, the well-known fashionable watering place on the Scioto River, some thirteen miles north of Columbus, was sold on Monday last by the Treasurer of Delaware, at the sale of lands forfeited to the State for non-payment of taxes. The amount due was nine hundred and seventy-eight dollars eighty-three cents and eight mills. Dr. Welch, of Delaware, was the purchaser.

—Most of the Americans from the Northern States in England, are making arrangements, in view of a war with that country, for a hasty departure; as, in such an event, they would probably be left there without any mode of communication, and with their supplies cut off. The Southerners, on the other hand, are jubilant in anticipation of the aid of England and the prospects of the blockaded ports being opened.

—The second and third companies of Minnesota cavalry, Captains West and Brockett, have been authorized to join either of the Wisconsin cavalry regiments, and it is probable they will join Col. Washburne's, at La Crosse.

—The *National Republican* says the Administration will co-operate with Gen. Lane heartily and fully. He will have such an army and such a command as he desires to have. No announcement could be more gratifying to the country. It is the beginning of the end of the war.

—The Grand Rapids (Mich.) *Eagle* says that at a trial of marksmanship in Berdan's Brigade, at Washington lately, two men from that city made the first and second best shots, and that the Michigan company, as a whole, put more balls in the target than any other.

—The thirteen hundred rebels taken in Missouri, just arrived at St. Louis, the *Republicans* suggests should be sent to Alton, Ill., to be kept in the old Penitentiary. A good suggestion it is—the buildings and grounds are ample, and could be easily guarded.

— The late experimental trip the Pensacola was all that could be reasonably expected. The vessel steamed about one half knots an hour, and went to Indian Head and back again. Mr. Sickles, the Engineer, will remain on board the ship until she gets to Fortress Monroe. He has been practically a prisoner on board for some weeks, in order to get the machinery in good working order. The Pensacola is a splendid vessel, in beautiful order, and apparently admirably governed. We shall hear a good report of her soon. As well for caution as protection, the tug boats Reliance and Yankee will accompany the Pensacola by the batteries; and a tow boat also will render her assistance.

— The Board of Fire Insurance Companies of New York City, held on the 12th instant, appointed a special committee of five to investigate and report upon the nature of petroleum or rock oil, earth oils, Benzine, Benzole and Naphtha, and the oils refined from petroleum and coal oil, with a rate of insurance upon the articles. The committee made their report on the 23d. The report states that petroleum, rock oil, or earth oil, as it is generally received in its crude and unrefined state is largely charged with volatile matter, highly inflammable in its nature, and evolved explosive gas to some extent at the usual temperature of the atmosphere, and much more freely by an increased degree of heat, and is hence uninsurable and will violate all policies that it is kept on the premises.

— The extremity to which the South is reduced by the conditions of its currency, daily receives some fresh illustration. For a long while, Tennessee thinks of assuming her share of the Confederate tax without calling upon tax payers to meet it at this crisis. The scheme for doing this proposes to raise the money that is needed by an issue of paper by the Bank of Tennessee, which, being indorsed by the State, will thus, it is hoped, obtain some currency. In point of fact, however, the scheme amounts to a confession that the only resources of Tennessee is in an expansion of issues of a depreciated and discreditable and threated with serious depreciation.

A petition is being circulated in Detroit that an investigation shall be made of the charges against Gen. McKinstry, now held under arrest at St. Louis.

—The rebel flag that waved over the Marshall House, Alexandria, and now stained with the blood of Ellsworth, is kept as a trophy in the Adjutant General's office of Michigan.

—Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, has been collecting the old State arms, scattered around among the counties, and as a result he has 17,574 muskets, 1,800 rifles, and 37 cannon; with 10,000 more muskets to come in, and several pieces of ordnance at Erie and Philadelphia. The arms are being put in order at the rate of 1,200 a week.

—The Lafayette House, two dwelling houses and two barns, at Sandy Creek, Oleans county, N. Y., were burned a few mornings since; loss $5,000, partially insured.

—John Swegles, State Auditor of Michigan from 1850 to 1854, died at St. Johns, Mich., a few days since, aged 43.

—Hon. James X. McLanahan, Member of Congress from the Franklin district of Pennsylvania from 1849 to 1858, died in New York city, this week, aged 53.

—The new hotel to occupy the site of the Mill House, at Columbus, Ohio approaches completion.

—St. John's Episcopal Church, at Detroit, erected at a cost of $80,000, and capable of seating about one thousand persons, was dedicated on Wednesday last, with a sermon by Bishop Burgess of Maine.

—The Detroit *Advertiser* says the war excitement at Windsor, Canada, just across the river, was for a few days very threatening—for the consumption of whisky.

—The regents of the University of Michigan have voted to erect a law building, and invite the proposals of contractors, the building to be completed by the first of September, 1863. No amount is fixed for the price, but payments are to be made annually for five years.

—The Supreme Court at Rochester, New York, has decided that the bequest of $50,000 to Hobart College, made by Allen Ayrault, shall be paid, the trustees of the College having filed the conditions annexed, which were to raise $40,000 additional by subscriptions. This places the college upon a substantial basis.

—Col. Cad. C. Washburne, of the 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, at LaCrosse, reports six companies of his regiment now in camp, and 948 men enlisted.

—Prof. John Ogden, Principal of the State Normal School at Winona, Minn., has resigned, in order to join the army as officer in the Wisconsin cavalry.

—A permanent fortification, commanding the passes at Rolla, Mo., is being constructed by the troops, the walls twelve feet high, ten feet across at the top, and surrounded by a ditch twenty feet wide. Ten block-houses, each of capacity to accommodate 150 men, are being built inside. The guns will be four 32-pounders and four 12-pounders.

—Mart. Green has been elected Brigadier General of the Missouri rebel troops, in place of Tom Harris, one of the commissioners appointed by Claib. Jackson's legislature to represent Missouri in the rebel Congress.

—It is a matter of common assertion that coal oil will not explode. Yet serious accidents have arisen from the explosion of lamps in which coal oil was burned. A case of this kind has undergone legal and scientific investigation in England. It was found that the parafine or coal oil which was of the specific gravity of 0.820 did not explode; but the substitute, which seemed to be petroleum oil, and had a specific gravity of 0.704, was explosive.

The verdict of the jury stated that it was the vapor of the oil and not the oil itself which exploded.

—Lieutenant [Colonel Bushnell, of the Lincoln Cavalry, is now on trial at Washington, before an investigating committee, for treason. Information was lodged some months ago, but was disregarded for insufficiency; further information produced a trial on Wednesday last, and continued to this day.

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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Fate of the Homestead Bill—What it Provided, and how it was Lost—"No War with England."

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, December 26, 1861.

The Homestead Bill has gone to the place where no dogs bark. A few days after the session commenced, Mr. Lovejoy reported it, pure and simple, from the Committee on Agriculture, to which it was referred last summer. There seemed to be a desire on the part of some members to attach a soldier's bounty to it, and on the part of others to kill it entirely. It was referred to the Committee on Public Lands. This was not the place for it to secure the slumber which some persons desired to accord it, for Mr. Potter of Wisconsin very soon reported it back with an excellent provision for securing homes to soldiers or their widows and children. The bill provided that, as to ordinary settlers, an occupation of five years and the payment of ten dollars should secure a patent for 160 acres now held by the Government at $1.25 per acre, or eighty acres at $2.50 per acre—the settler to be the head of a family or twenty-one years of age, and a citizen of the United States. As to soldiers or seamen, it provided that the settler should receive the patent without the payment of any money, and irrespective of his age, condition or citizenship—this, together with a cash bounty of $20 for every three months' soldier or seaman, and $100 for every one serving more than six months, to be in lieu of all other claims, such as bounty land warrants, prize money, etc. The bill was admirably drawn to cover the rights of all classes of settlers in the public domain, and to promote the general welfare. Nothing can be more foolish than to attempt to pay our soldiers now with bounty land warrants, as we did after the Mexican war and that of 1812. Six hundred and sixty thousand warrants issued simultaneously, or nearly so, would reduce the market price to $10 per warrant, or even less; so that the money value would be no compensation. But if the soldier should wish to locate his warrant and secure a homestead, the bill provided amply for meeting the case, without cost or restriction. At the same time it opened the doors to the millions at home, as well as the thousands in camp and afloat. The bill was postponed till the first Monday in February, by a sectional vote—the East and border slave States against the West; yeas 88, nays 59. Kellogg of Michigan, Porter of Indiana, and Riddle of Ohio, voted for the postponement, and Bikir and Lozear of Pennsylvania, Clark, J. S. Conkling, Fenton, Frank and Van Horn, of New York, against it. Otherwise it was a distinctly sectional vote. The only member from the border slave States voting against the postponement was Whaley, of Western Virginia. The vote is considered decisive of the fate of the bill, and indeed of the homestead principle, in this Congress.

"No war with England," is the substance of all the givings-out from Government circles. Such too, is the judgment of nearly all, except the secession sympathizers—Vallandigham, Cox, Ben Wood et al. Without knowing what is the nature of the demands made upon our Government, it may be assumed that the principle of the Trent affair will be upheld, but war, it will be our policy, upon receiving the first blow, to confiscate every dollar's worth of English property in the United States at one swoop. We should then get from five hundred to one thousand millions of dollars to begin with. If it be true that the Government has the right of confiscation of private property except on the high seas, it is equally true that civilization forbids nations to make war on each other except for some cause for which no remedy can be found in negotiation.

The Aspect in Missouri—Secretary Chase and the Currency Question—Our Sea Coast Generals.

[From our own Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, December 25, 1861.

Gen. Fope's successes in Missouri are hailed by members with that exultation which may be pardoned among persons as had settled down in the belief that defeat and disgrace are our allotted portion. Congress is indeed beginning to look with much hope towards Gen. Halleck and the Western army. Frank Blair's attempt to explain army Order No. 3 has had a good effect in one view, namely, that people believe he spoke with the consent of Gen. Halleck, if not at his request. There never was a time in the world's history when a warm-hearted, self-sacrificing people were so ready to heap rewards upon energy, capacity, common humanity, and common sense in their rulers or generals, as in this our day and generation. Who shall pluck these immortal laurels?

The financial question is exciting some interest, now that the House Committee on Ways and Means have taken hold of it. We have run through with nearly all the specie that the people will lend us, and have come to the uncertain resource of paper. The banks of issue are making an enormous effort to induce Congress to *add* Treasury notes to the existing paper currency of the several States, rather than to *substitute* Treasury notes therefor. In other words, they want the paper circulation doubled, and they are trying to show that no other effect would result from such a policy—that prices would not be so greatly increased as some people might imagine. This plan is in direct contravention of Secretary Chase's recommendation. His proposition is to put the Treasury notes in the place of the existing paper currency, and not to pile it on top of that currency. He says that the banks have borrowed some two hundred millions of dollars from the people in the form of notes circulating as money, but the people would rather lend this two hundred millions to the Government than to the banks; therefore let the banks gradually pay back this money, so that the people can loan it to the Government. The plan which the banks of issue present, proposes to get something out of nothing—to eat your cake and have it too—to set up a system of perpetual motion in the Treasury building to furnish the Government with funds to all eternity, and never run dry.

A new plan seems to have been devised by some of our generals on the Atlantic coast, for dealing with the negroes, namely: to treat them so barbarously that they will prefer to *stay* with their masters, and even fight for them, rather than come to us. Gen. Sherman appears to be putting it in execution quite thoroughly. The order of this officer excluding newspaper correspondents from the Federal lines is regarded the last refuge of an incompetent pro-slavery general, who has no heart in the war, and no head capable of leading and directing an army. Naturally enough Sherman and Dupont disgrace. The latter is a bold, prompt, energetic officer, who believes with Macaulay that "*languid* war can do nothing which negotiation or submission could not do better." Hence he is for hitting right and left, and following up victories without giving the enemy time to recover. If the supreme command had been in Com. Dupont's hands, Savannah would have been in our possession long ago.

OUR LOUISVILLE LETTER.

Gov. Magoffin between two Stools—He signs the Bills of the Legislature—"State Sovereignty"—Brawlies of Neutrality—An early return on the Session—Military Matters—Gen. Buell's Policy on the Slavery Question.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 28th, 1861.

The conduct of the Governor of the State in returning approved most of the bills passed by the two houses of the Legislature, has confounded both Unionists and rebels in this State. The former never had any confidence, and now the rebels have lost all the hope they ever placed, in him. It is evident that they have trusted him until lately, since the Provisional Governor at Russellville announced that he held his office only as *pro tem*, during the forced absence of the legally elected Governor. Magoffin has denied any disposition or intention to abscond, or make a traitorous agency of the Governorship, but it is by no means beyond possibility that he has at some time or another promised to be with the rebels at Russellville in person as well as spirit.

Unexpectedly on the last day of the session, the Governor returned the bills of the Legislature approved. We would imagine from this that the docile Governor had considered fully the condition he was in and concluded to come around all right, and be as good a citizen as—well, as he claims to be. One would imagine that he is about to redeem the promises made in the late letter to the *Journal*, and abide by the expressed will of a majority of the people. But the Governor intends nothing of the sort, and does nothing of the sort. He has, in obedience to the command of the majority, countermarched a little, turning his back on *secessionism* and rebellion; yet the good natured Legislature, disposed to encourage him in his good works, goes out to meet and welcome him on his return, and as per consequence, the two meet upon the confines of neutrality. Neutrality is the word! Neutrality is the watchword! Neutrality is the countersign! Neutrality is the shibboleth! Neutrality is the test! Neutrality is the touchstone and rotten platform of State rights. In short the Legislature has left the Governor a *confirm* of the chief priest of the Southern heresy. Worse than that, a concordat has been entered into between the secular princes of the Legislature, and His Holiness, the Pope and Priest of the doctrine, in despite of the repudiations made long ago by the people. The people voted Union, and Magoffin said it meant Union with the South. The Legislature swore it meant the old Union. To compromise, the Governor and Legislature have decided for the people, that they meant a Union separate and distinct from both—a State Sovereignty.

Neutrality has uttered more of treason since it was started than Rebellion has in the same period. Carlile and Saulsbury utter it defiantly in the teeth of Congress and the people. In the Kentucky Legislature, Union-ism is so disguised in conditions that it looks for all the world like treason, and once or twice the cloven foot has revealed itself. Resolutions are so loaded with parenthetical conditions and contingents, that, like the ravings of a maniac, the sense is lost in the profusion of words. The session has been one of words—"sound and fury, signifying nothing." Bills which it is known were prepared, touching upon the important points of contraband, confiscation and taxation, have either not been presented, or, referred to select committees, have only found expression in high-sounding and insignificant resolutions. A bill for the confiscation of rebel property, such as was prepared by Mr. Speed, of this city, did not reach the desk. In its stead came a series of resolutions—I believe by Mr. Harney, of the Louisville *Democrat*, and member of the House—insignificant save as an expression of sentiment, and furnishing arguments for old farmers who indulge in whisky papers to quote. A bill in substance providing for the reception of fugitive slaves into the army, and in direct opposition to the "General Order No. 3" of Gen. Halleck, I am told, was shouted at by a declaration of the *Journal*, reiterated by the members who appear afraid to handle the subject, that the slavery question was safer in the hands of the military than the executive and legislative authorities. The bill providing for the assumption of the Federal direct tax by the State of Kentucky did not pass. As it assumed a debt, twenty votes were necessary to pass it. Eighteen only voted for it, the opposition having mustered seven votes by some manner or another.

Thus it will be seen the Legislature has accomplished nothing, not even having acted on the President's suggestion to build a railroad to East Tennessee, except by forces, Southern and Northern. For the last day or two he has been confined to his bed, scarcely able to move. He continues, however, to sanction the numerous bills now coming before him for his signature with great care, and to discharge his other official duties, notwithstanding his painful malady.

BEAU.

INTERESTING ADVENTURES IN DIXIE.

[Washington Dispatch to the N. Y. Times, 19th.]

On the 2d of December three men of Sickles's Fifth Regiment were rowing about in a boat with two boys, Thomas Wiswell of Jersey City, and Thomas Hall of Massachusetts, attached to the regiment. The men being drunk, got out too far, and all were taken prisoners by the rebels. The boys were released on the next day, in company with Capt. Ricketts and Rev. Mr. Mines of the Second Maine, by way of Fortress Monroe, having been unconditionally released by the Secretary of War. They are remarkably intelligent, and tell the following story:

On being hailed they surrendered, having no arms, except a revolver and a knife. They were taken up Chapawamsic Creek about a mile to the camp of the 2d Tennessee Walker Legion, Col. Wm. B. Wade. Here they were kept four days, and as they were "small fry," were allowed to go anywhere. They chose sleeping and messing with the officers. They found Wade a fine gentleman, furnished with good water power, which is appreciated, and is to be fully improved. Every foot of ground along the river has been claimed as mill sites, and fifteen are in operation, and being erected about fifty water mills.

Dayton (formerly Chinstown) is situated on the river, and is bound to be a fine town from the fact of its being the center around which water mills are being erected. The citizens of Dayton labored hard to induce the Legislature to locate the capital of Virginia at that point. But Carson City had the preference, and I believe that it is permanently located there.

About twenty miles southeast of Virginia is the district of Palmyra, claimed by those interested there, to be a rich mining district, and here, within a few weeks, have been discovered extensive deposits of coal, which will be of great value.

About one hundred miles to the southeast is Petersburg. This, as a mining region, is fast becoming one of note, and flourishing towns are springing up within the neighborhood of the best mines. The largest town in this region is called Petersburg.

Humboldt, about one hundred and fifty miles northeast from here, the knowing ones begin to look upon as another rich district, and the name of Humboldt is now associated with rich strikes and immense fortunes. But the distance which all machinery and provisions have to be transported is a great drawback upon that country.

Some twenty miles northwest is the Red Bluff mining district, where there are some very rich mines, being the best adapted for excellent water power, on the Truckee river, it is destined to be of some importance.

Galena, fifteen miles west of here, already boasts of some fifty mills, and is becoming village. One hundred quartz mills are in operation or being erected, and of the amount of bullion that is daily turned out, I will not risk conjecture. So much for the mineral resources of Nevada.

You will notice I have made Virginia the center of operations, this mining country, and so may it well be, it being the metropolis and the highest city or town in the Territory. It is said Virginia is the largest city of its size on the face of the globe, and the wonder-working world, and it now boasts all the improvements of modern cities. During the summer past improvements have been progressing rapidly, and there is not another mining town in America (Chicago perhaps, excepted, and that has the advantage of being an inland port, and a railroad to boot) twice its importance as Virginia. The first Territorial Legislature which has been in session at Carson City for the last sixty days, adjourns to-day. What has been done I cannot learn, the records of the Territory it is at present hard to tell, but that they have not been idle we know.

I learn that Governor Nye has been suffering for several days past from a severe attack of rheumatism. For the last day or two he has been confined to his bed, scarcely able to move. He continues, however, to sanction the numerous bills now coming before him for his signature with great care, and to discharge his other official duties, notwithstanding his painful malady.

BEAU.

INTERESTING ADVENTURES IN DIXIE.

[Washington Dispatch to the N. Y. Times, 19th.]

On the 2d of December three men of Sickles's Fifth Regiment were rowing about in a boat with two boys, Thomas Wiswell of Jersey City, and Thomas Hall of Massachusetts, attached to the regiment. The men being drunk, got out too far, and all were taken prisoners by the rebels. The boys were released on the next day, in company with Capt. Ricketts and Rev. Mr. Mines of the Second Maine, by way of Fortress Monroe, having been unconditionally released by the Secretary of War. They are remarkably intelligent, and tell the following story:

On being hailed they surrendered, having no arms, except a revolver and a knife. They were taken up Chapawamsic Creek about a mile to the camp of the 2d Tennessee Walker Legion, Col. Wm. B. Wade. Here they were kept four days, and as they were "small fry," were allowed to go anywhere. They chose sleeping and messing with the officers. They found Wade a fine gentleman, furnished with good water power, which is appreciated, and is to be fully improved. Every foot of ground along the river has been claimed as mill sites, and fifteen are in operation, and being erected about fifty water mills.

Dayton (formerly Chinstown) is situated on the river, and is bound to be a fine town from the fact of its being the center around which water mills are being erected. The citizens of Dayton labored hard to induce the Legislature to locate the capital of Virginia at that point. But Carson City had the preference, and I believe that it is permanently located there.

About twenty miles southeast of Virginia is the district of Palmyra, claimed by those interested there, to be a rich mining district, and here, within a few weeks, have been discovered extensive deposits of coal, which will be of great value.

About one hundred miles to the southeast is Petersburg. This, as a mining region, is fast becoming one of note, and flourishing towns are springing up within the neighborhood of the best mines. The largest town in this region is called Petersburg.

Humboldt, about one hundred and fifty miles northeast from here, the knowing ones begin to look upon as another rich district, and the name of Humboldt is now associated with rich strikes and immense fortunes. But the distance which all machinery and provisions have to be transported is a great drawback upon that country.

Some twenty miles northwest is the Red Bluff mining district, where there are some very rich mines, being the best adapted for excellent water power, on the Truckee river, it is destined to be of some importance.

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BEAU.

TO THE POINT.

There is no lack of wine and choice food for the captives, Mason and Slidell.—Northern letter.

Viands to feed a traitor's maw,
Champagne from snowy hands, and Hock;
Soft music for the God of War
While Frederick's granite pillars rock;
Though Whitney weave a bloody shroud,
And Lyon pound his life in vain,
North Bunker's chaff speak not aloud
Aught that may give the captives pain.

Where Warren looks on freedom's wave,
Whose white surf combs along its wall,
Bend low, descendants of the brave!—
Twin traitor-kings those walls enthrall.
Hoodwink your eagle, lest he soar
Too fiercely in the dazzling noon,
Above the sulphur smoke and roar,
To crave of Heaven the freeman's boon.

Aye! let the putrid cancer eat
Still deeper in the nation's heart,
And benedictions wear with weary feet
The clanking chains to swell the mart
Of sordid empires—while your eyes,
Shut to the light of Freedom's sun,
Behold the abhorred sacrifice,
And gory streams like rivers run.

Rise in your might! their altars shake!
Strike the grim god of slavery down!
Bid fiery Mars your vengeance wake,
On Southern field, and Southern town.
If these alone but bar the way,
Your nation's peace is cheaply won—
Yours is the power, the freeman day
And yours the sword of Gideon.

La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 1861. ***

THE BATTLE AT DRAINSVILLE.

[Washington cor. N. Y. World, Tuesday.]

Gen. Ord's battle at Drainsville—for it was something more than a skirmish—was a surprise to all parties concerned, and its result is to us an agreeable diversion from the rebel success which has often marked these reconnoitering engagements. No one had any reason to suppose that Friday's foraging excursion of the Third Pennsylvania Reserve Brigade would be signalized by any more fighting than have preceding expeditions in the same direction. Indeed, all corps pushed out from the main line, for purposes of subsistence or espionage, receive Gen. McClellan's precise instructions not to bring on an engagement, if battles are allowed to occur at hap-hazard, the best laid schemes of generals will "aft gang agee."

No reporter, therefore, was present at the Drainsville affair, and consequently, in the absence of any official account, of dispatches, it is difficult to get a correct idea of the ground and maneuvering from the statements of the local press, based on the confused narratives of minor participants in the action. These statements, however, will all reach you, so that I will add nothing except a few general facts, which may serve in explaining to you how much the action amounted to.

Gen. McCall's division, composed of the celebrated fifteen Pennsylvania reserve regiments, has been for some time encamping at and about Langley's and Prospect Hill, a few miles north of Chain Bridge, on the fork of the Leesburg turnpike running northwest from the city. Four of these regiments lines close completely round our own, from the upper to the lower Potomac, (thus forming a segment of a circle to which the river—if it were straight—would be an arc,) this division of Gen. McCall's and that of Gen. Heintzelman's on the extreme left below Mt. Vernon, are perhaps in nearer contact with large bodies of the enemy than any other of our divisions stretched between them. This is especially the case with McCall's, since the rebels keep at least 20,000 men between Leesburg and Difficult Creek, and the ground intervening between our right and their left is general foraging territory for both parties. It will be remembered that this was the scene of the skirmish near Dranesville, in which we captured a whole rebel company.

The west flank of the Leesburg turnpike passes through Falls Church, uniting with the road from Chain Bridge and Prospect Hill at a point seven miles above the former, and two miles this side of Drainsville. The latter village, the nucleus of Friday's battle, is, therefore, only seven miles northwest of our earthworks. It is aggravating to many resident correspondents, who like picturesque and dramatic an affair should have occurred within a two hours' gallop, and yet without their knowledge and peculiar enjoyment.

On the night of the battle stated our loss at ten killed and about fifteen wounded; the enemy's at sixty-one dead and eighteen wounded, left on the field, besides those carried away. Of our dead, at least one-half a hundred must have been wounded, to maintain the usual proportion named. It is safe, therefore, to estimate the total loss of the rebels at one hundred and fifty men. Yesterday, conversing with one of the officers ordered to count those left on the field, I learned that the enemy had buried many of their dead. But from the account of the battle, in which it does not appear that Gen. Ord flanked the enemy or in any way obtained a greatly superior strength, we have no right to believe that our own loss as small as stated. In the first place, the forces engaged were not unequal—consisting, as I have said, of the enemy, supporting a battery of six guns, and four regiments of our own, supporting Easton's battery of four 24-pound and 32-pound howitzers. Again, Gen. Ord was fighting along the narrow Leesburg turnpike, the noticeable Bucktail Rifles, Col. Thomas L. Kane, in the van, and on entering the village, considering the strength of the rebels from their ambuscade in the Virginia forest.

To-day we get the true statement of our losses, and they are considerably in the amount which proves that the Pennsylvanians did hard and honest fighting, and did not win by catching the rebels in a trap, it is nevertheless encouraging to find that the enemy's killed and wounded as to render the battle of Drainsville the most encouraging and brilliant success of its kind won by us since our first occupation of the Potomac. Accounts to-day from three regiments foot up as follows: Kane Rifles, 3 killed, 34 wounded; 39th Pennsylvania reserve, 5 killed, 16 wounded; 7th Pennsylvania reserve, 2 killed, 20 wounded. Total, 7 killed; 67 wounded. The report of the Twelfth Regiment's losses has not come in. I know nothing of the others.

Our good fortune must have resulted largely from the formidable nature and position of Easton's Battery. These howitzers, of the largest calibre, have a range as a man's hat, and throw grape and canister, at short range, with frightful tumult and effect. They are undoubtedly among the best of our field guns for close action. The four pieces were flanked on a hill, from whence they threw a near, plunging fire into the rebel battery of six guns and the rebels have since fled from where they were deployed. A deal of musketry practice also occurred, and an attempted flanking charge of the rebels was bravely repulsed by the bayonets of the Kane Rifles. Many of the latter also maintained their reputation as sharp-shooters from a large brick house in the village. Taste and the significant features of the contest which have reached us. Toward the close, when the fire of the enemy grew feeble, our Ninth and Twelfth regiments advanced, under victorious bugle notes, to make the final charge and sweep the field. This was an inspiriting moment. Through the pine and oak thickets their progress was perforce somewhat slow. By the time they had reached the rebel position the enemy had fled the field—leaving only ghastly heaps of their dead and dying, in numbers above mentioned, their artillery, ammunition, &c., an exploded caisson, and the other wonted *debris* of a swift and bloody defeat.

The conflict commenced at 1 o'clock P. M., and lasted till 5 P. M. Gen. Ord's report of the death of distinguished rebel officers. It is said that Kentucky Col. Tom Taylor and Virginia cavalry General Stuart were among the killed and wounded left in the retreat, but we certainly have no means of knowing the truth of such stories.

This you have a narrative of this really important affair; doubly important, because it proves the courage and discipline of our army. The Federal regiments engaged are probably little better than a match for any other corps across the Potomac. From four brigades of the army of the Potomac, Gen. Ord could have been one of the "decisive battles" in the days of '76. It resembled that of July 18, at Blackburn's Ford, we having the same number of men on both occasions. This time, though, the rebel beans, and cotton, outnumber us four to one, and though we had four cannon less than at the Ford, the victory remained with our troops. The main result was greater than that which Beauregard claimed over Generals Tyler and Richardson. The disgrace, if there was any, of July 18, is now completely wiped out by the affair of Friday. In a few weeks—shall it not be so?—we will "remember Bull Run," as the noble Indianians have "remembered Buena Vista." But first, if General Ord's brilliant fully appreciated success, ling moral effect which General Ord's bit has already had on the army, he will give us a few more preliminaries, of the Drainsville pattern.

Our Railroad Prospects.

It is perhaps well understood by most of our readers that there is now in process of construction a railroad across Iowa, starting from Burlington, nearly east of this city. This road is being built in conformity with the provisions of the Pacific Railroad Bill, by the terms of which said road is to run through the second tier of counties. This road is now completed to Ottumwa, a distance of about 100 miles west of Burlington, and the question of a Missouri terminus has been often a subject of much interest to the company. The company are desirous of making Nebraska the terminus, but cannot do so under the provisions of the grant, and to accomplish this there has been, we are told, a standing offer to the company to run the road to the line between Montgomery and Mills counties, and then allow us to build from there to this city; but, unfortunately, our people have not been in a situation to comply with the offer. We understand now that some of the business men of Chicago have been investigating the matter, and have volunteered to accept the offer made to our city. While this will be both a relief and a God-send to us, it will be a master stroke of policy to Chicago, for by it she will be put in direct communication with the Missouri River at a point destined to be one of the most important on the western bank of that river, besides being the most direct and feasible route by way of Nebraska Salt works, Fort Kearney, Denver, and the Pacific coast.

In taking hold of this road Chicago is not unmindful of the advantage she will have obtained over St. Louis, by turning at all seasons of the year the trade of nearly all Nebraska and Pike's Peak to that direction.

The advantages to us from such a connection will be two fold. While it will give us an expeditious route east it will not in the least deprive us of the benefits of the trade from the South, and the two routes will, by coming in competition, always keep the rates of freight reasonably low and be the means of keeping spring competition.—*Chicago (Iowa) Herald*, 23d.

☞ Gen. Sherman, who seems to have blundered since the beginning at Port Royal, ordered all the reporters out of his camp, and immediately ordered them back again. A more competent man ought to be at that post at once.

THE FARM.

A Great Revolution in Crops—Winter and Spring Wheat—Southern Corn—Peas—Rye and Barley—Potatoes.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 26, 1861.

At the outgoing of the year is a proper time to take a retrospect of its results and to lay plans for the future. If we have committed errors in selection of crops or in our mode of culture, now while the subject is fresh before us, is of all occasions the most appropriate to investigate the cause and make a record of the fact.

The war has brought us a new condition of things, and the consequence is that a revolution in the great agricultural staples of the State is now in progress.

WINTER AND SPRING WHEAT.

The northern part of the State has made spring wheat the great agricultural staple of that section, but it should be remembered that it is only a few years since this crop was considered too uncertain to be trusted. The yield was generally small and the quality poor. It we investigate the cause, we will find that in its culture we pursue a course new to all other parts of the United States, and of course varying materially from the old custom, and yet this change of culture has placed spring wheat in the front rank of all other staples in the commercial metropolis of the Northwest. It is